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THE  
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OF AN  
AMERICAN.  
VOL. II.



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O F T H E

K I N G D O M O F P R U S S I A,

A N D T H E

I S L A N D O F S T. D O M I N G O.

Translated from the FRENCH.

I N T W O V O L U M E S.

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M D C C L X X I I I.

THE  
MEMOIRS  
OF AN  
AMERICAN  
WITH A  
DESCRIPTION

OF THE  
KINGDOM OF PRUSSIA  
AND THE  
ISLAND OF ST. DOMINGO.

Translated from the French.  
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

L O N D O N :

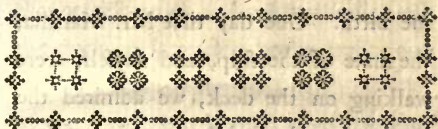
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THE  
MEMOIRS  
OF AN

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*Post Office July*

WE had now been more than a  
month upon the wide ocean  
which separates Europe from  
America, when a favourable trade wind  
carried us towards the island which gave

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B

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me birth. One day that Mr. Marfilla, the mate of the ship, and myself, were walking on the deck, we admired the pure and unclouded sky, and its resplendent azure roof; the sinking sun yet darted its rays in the air, but the wide ocean seemed to open its bosom to receive that brilliant orb, as the evening now approached. We perceived, all of a sudden, a fresh cold breeze which curled the waves, the heavens soon became overcast, and the waves swelled, and were shortly covered with foam. I foretold to Mr. Marfilla a violent tempest, and desired him to descend. The young mate prevented him, and laughed at my fear. The night advanced, and we could scarce distinguish objects the



the nearest to us. As I was going off the deck, a large sea broke upon our quarter; happily for me I had fast hold of the ropes, but heard a violent scream immediately. I called several times to Mr. Marfilla and the mate, but received no answer, and I immediately suspected they had both of them been washed overboard. The sailors, frightened by my suspicion, immediately backed the sails. I presently afterwards met the captain, to whom I communicated my fears. He ordered Mr. Marfilla and the mate to be sought for, but we were soon confirmed in the truth of my suspicions. Mrs. Marfilla, from whom it was impossible to conceal the melancholy catastrophe, was in the greatest

agonies; she attempted to throw herself into the sea, it was scarce possible to prevent the effects of her despair. The danger had cast a fear throughout the ship, our vessel was as nothing before the winds, she mounted with the roaring waves, and seemed presently afterwards to sink into the deep abyss. The night was exceedingly dark, except at intervals, when the forked lightning glanced upon the waves. With my eyes fixed upon the water, I sought, with but little hope, a glimpse of the friend I had lost. The vivid lightning afforded a transient light upon the waves around us, and I thought I could once discover some person struggling against the waves. His strength seemed

seemed increased upon the sight of the vessel, towards which he extended his hands; but darkness immediately succeeded, and I could see no more. I informed the sailors of what I had observed, who called with all their strength, at the same time throwing out ropes; but the noise of the thunder and waves drowned their useless clamours. Inspired with hope, I threw into the air a rope lighted at the end several times, and all the sailors did the same. By the light of one which I threw, I thought I could again perceive the unfortunate being. He seized it with his hands, I was presently sensible of the resistance, and therefore called for more help. Wonderful escape! I slipped down the

side of the vessel, and hawled the almost expiring body into the ship. I could scarce know my dear friend Marsilla again, he was so much disfigured. Exhausted with fatigue, he could not support his head, and still grasped, violently, the cord which had saved him. I am unable to describe the joy, the ecstasy of his wife, when she was informed, that her husband, whose death she lamented, yet lived, and was aboard the ship. Whilst they got off Mr. Marsilla's wet clothes, his wife chafed him with her warm hands. The surgeon, after making him throw up the water he had swallowed, had him put into a warm bed. Whilst he reposed, we considered his good fortune as a miracle;

his

his wife took my hands and kissed them with transport in the excess of her gratitude: the unfortunate mate was never seen more.

The winds were shortly dispersed, a calm succeeded the tempest, and the rays of the rising sun again shone upon the water. Contemplating on that vast ocean, the sea, where the largest vessel is only as a grain of sand in size; insensible as we are, I said to myself; how will interest thus lead us into the midst of dangers? Why should we change into evil, the good which the Author of nature has deigned to create for the preservation of his work? If the impetuous winds swell the waves, and raise a

B 4

tempest,

tempest, is it not to purify that element, that the continued calm, by corrupting the stagnant air, should not destroy those who breathe it? Oh men, who fear death, do not seek it; do not go beyond the bounds nature has prescribed; do not confide in a perfidious calm; to-morrow the smooth surface may be ruffled by the wind; the waves, white with foam, will present to your terrified minds deep pits, where death is inevitable, and then you will lament your departure from the shore.

After reposing myself for some hours, I returned to Mr. Marsilla, who was now pretty well recovered from the trouble which his fatigue and fear had cast

cast him into. He had taken some restoratives, which had recovered his spirits, and brought his weak fibres to their wonted strength ; but his voice was still feeble. Whilst I had been absent, his wife had informed him that he owed his life to me ; therefore, as soon as I entered, he took my hand and carried it to his lips, at the same time his tears stole down his cheeks. Affected with his gratitude, I could not prevent my tears mingling with his.

In a few days Mr. Marfilla was perfectly recovered. I was exceedingly happy in the thoughts of my having snatched him out of the arms of death, and restored life to that virtuous, tender woman,



man, who could not have survived his loss.

We now approached the island of St. Domingo, where my family lived in splendor. An unhappy uncertainty still affected me; I scarce dared to flatter myself with seeing my mother again. I was afraid she would still preserve her resentment, which had caused her indifference as to my fate; that pride would suppress the joy which every mother must feel upon the sight of a son after many years absence. At the time these unhappy thoughts affected me, Mr. Marsilla came up to me, and said in the language of friendship, "I see you do not think me worthy your  
" confi-



“ confidence; I am sure you are not  
 “ happy, but you conceal the cause,  
 “ and refuse the affections of a man  
 “ whose life you have saved. My dear  
 “ friend,” he continued, “ can you  
 “ doubt my zeal, my gratitude, or the  
 “ real satisfaction I should enjoy in  
 “ contributing to your happiness?”

The expression which appeared in the eyes of that excellent young man, and the truth of what he said, affected me greatly.

“ Yes, my dear Marsilla, I am un-  
 “ happy,” replied I, “ and it increases  
 “ upon my nearer approach to that  
 “ island, where happiness, which has

“ shunned me so long, ought to succ-  
 “ ceed. But, my friend,” I continu-  
 ed, “ how can I inform you of the  
 “ cause of my distress? — That secret  
 “ belongs to another.” As I pronounced  
 these words, the two ladies, whom vir-  
 tue and affection had strictly united,  
 came up to us.

“ I am right in my suspicions,” said  
 Mr. Marfilla to his wife: “ the friend  
 “ whom we love to excess is not happy,  
 “ distress rends his generous soul: Alas,  
 “ if he dares not confide his misfor-  
 “ tunes in us, who shall be his com-  
 “ forter?”

“ What

“What my husband considers as a  
 “duty in himself not to reveal,” replied  
 the woman I adored, “I will impart to  
 “you; as I am certain of preserving  
 “your esteem and affection after the re-  
 “cital.”

Her friend embraced her with tender-  
 ness, and Mrs. Marfilla took hold of  
 her hand, whilst with courage she in-  
 formed them of the secret of her birth :  
 she told them with inimitable grace the  
 misfortunes of her mother, unhappily  
 brought to the grave by the perfidy of  
 her lover : she spoke with the greatest  
 affection and gratitude of the many good  
 offices of her benefactress, and the love  
 of her husband : she informed them of  
 the

the cruel revolutions which had changed our happy days into unhappy ones, and compelled us to go into a distant country, where we met only with humiliation and despair; she likewise informed them, that my mother entertained such contempt for her, and was so irritated at my marriage, that she had constantly refused, ever since she had been informed of it, the smallest assistance, and had answered my letters with the greatest disdain, commanding me never to write more. “ Judge then,” she continued,

“ if in our design of presenting ourselves before her, we have any reason to expect a more favourable reception.”

“ No,

“ No, my tender friend,” replied Mrs.  
 Marfilla to her, “ you shall not be expos-  
 “ ed to the contempt of that unjust  
 “ parent; you shall go with us to our  
 “ house; and if your husband’s mo-  
 “ ther refuses to see you, we will re-  
 “ turn to France together accompanied  
 “ by our husbands; my father expects  
 “ only two children, but he shall be  
 “ father to four. With what pleasure  
 “ will he receive us,” she continued,  
 looking at me; “ how much will the  
 “ tenderness of his caresses be increas-  
 “ ed, when he is informed that you  
 “ saved the life of his daughter’s hus-  
 “ band !”

will to conceal her arrival from me  
 and protect myself more before  
 Full

Full of gratitude, we chearfully accepted the offers of that generous woman.

Happy now as to the fate of my wife, I enjoyed all the charms of friendship; I no longer imagined that I saw my best-beloved insulted, rejected by my family, and return to me dissolved in tears; I now no longer murmured at the injustice of men. I thought with pleasure on seeing her one day cherished by those who now despised her, because they had not yet seen that beautiful face, which was the emblem of her mind. This happy thought made me wish to conceal her arrival from my mother, and present myself alone before her,

her, and have my wife afterwards introduced to her under a fictitious name. Mr. and Mrs. Marfilla approved my scheme, and promised their utmost endeavours to insure its success.

We were now within view of my native land, from whence I had been carried into distress and misery. We perceived the flying ensign, which declared the arrival of our ship to the colony. Whilst we were at some distance from the port, a shallop came alongside to reconnoitre us. Mr. Marfilla and his wife, my wife and myself, descended into it, and went immediately ashore. Wherefore,



Wherefore, when I have more misfortunes to describe, should I not lay aside my pen? What pleasure can I propose to myself in the remembrance of my past sufferings? — Alas! does not the lover who has lost the object of his affection, still look upon her portrait with innate pleasure? He loves to contemplate her features, and bathe them with his tears; he is fearful lest his affection should become weaker; he is not willing that the wound in his heart should be healed; he prefers the lonesome and solitary places which feed his melancholy, to the gay meadows enamelled with flowers; the chearful gaiety of the rural nymph is displeasing; the warbling of the birds on the trees

fatigue



fatigue his ear ; his unsociable eye enjoys the profundity of a precipice ; the mountains covered with snow are such as he loves to pass over ; he wishes that his plaintive notes might fill the air.

A frightful recollection, the most melancholy ideas begin to environ me ; my imagination becomes clogged with them, my hand trembles, and my heart is in violent agitation. Insensible creature ! thus to seek unhappiness, and even death.

After some days residence in the house of my friend Marfilla, I went to that of a sister, whom, at my departure

ture from St. Domingo, I had left very young. As I went across the court before her house, I met an elderly lady in a chair carried by negroes. She looked earnestly at me, as well as I at her. I went forward towards a saloon, where I was introduced to my sister's husband, who received me with a cold, constrained politeness. His wife, who appeared soon after, made me more welcome; her caresses were of the tenderest kind, which I warmly returned. She informed me, that her mother had just left her. I then imagined that the person whom I had met, and whose face occasioned me some little confusion, was the person who had given me birth. My sister asked me if I wished to see  
her,

her, and offered to accompany me. "I  
" have scarce been a moment in your  
" house," I replied, " and you are al-  
" ready desirous of sending me away."  
She blushed, and embraced me, at the  
same time assuring me of her friend-  
ship and affection. She soon afterwards  
led me to an apartment which she in-  
treated me to consider as my own, and  
gave me a slave to attend and wait on  
me. She called her two sons, who im-  
mediately came in the most chearful,  
sprightly manner to kiss me. I took  
them in my arms. " Amiable chil-  
" dren," I said to myself, " you are  
" dear to her who brought you into  
" the world, you do not fear her an-  
ger ;

“ger ; how much happier is your lot  
 “ than mine !”

The next day I desired my sister to inform my mother of my arrival, and to endeavour to dissipate her resentment against me which I had so little merited. At the moment she was promising me her service, two negroes appeared, opened the door of the saloon, and pronounced the arrival of my mother. My sister made me a sign to be silent, and not discover myself. When I saw that venerable woman appear, already sunk in years, weak and enfeebled by long diseases, I felt the sincerest love and respect for her ; I could scarce contain my transports ; I wished to throw myself

myself at her feet, and press her hand to my lips; I beheld her with reverence. When I heard her call my sister by the tender name of daughter, I turned away my head, to conceal my distress. “Am I not also your son?” I said to myself. “Why should you not acknowledge me such?”

“I never had the honour of seeing that gentleman before,” said my mother, turning herself towards my sister: “does he belong to this part of the island?”

“He is a friend of my husband’s,” replied my sister, “just arrived from France.”

“From

“From France!” said my mother;  
 “Alas! I had a son there—”

“Has death deprived you of him?”  
 interrupted I, in a feeble voice.

“He is alive for any thing I know,”  
 replied my mother; “but no longer so  
 to me.”

She pronounced these last words in a  
 manner which astonished me; but look-  
 ing at her daughter, “I am very good,  
 “I think,” said she to her, “thus to  
 “come to see you every day.”

“I am very grateful for the favour,  
 “my dear mother,” replied my sister.

Whilst

Whilst she finished these words, we heard a tumultuous kind of noise; the door opened, and the two children immediately ran to their grand-mother, who lavished her caresses on them: they presently afterwards came to me, took me by the hand, and called me their dear uncle. My sister immediately called them, and sent them away. My mother looked earnestly at me; she observed my confusion and embarrassment, and began to suspect who I was.

“What,” said she, “are you that son, who has dishonoured himself by an unworthy alliance; who has taken pleasure in precipitating himself into indigence and infamy; who has at-



“tached his destiny to that of an unfortunate creature born in sin?”

“Oh! my mother,” I cried, “what is it you are saying?”

At that moment I saw her grow pale, her eyes turned from me, and seemed to avoid mine. My sister flew to receive her in her arms; I ran to her also, took her hand and imprinted a thousand kisses on it. She saw me at her feet, and observed my tears. Affected with the sight, her tears stole down her cheeks, and for some time she could not utter her words.

“Unfortu-



“ Unfortunate young man,” she cried,  
“ you will be the death of me.”

“ Oh ! my dear, my tender mother,  
“ if you could but see her who has ren-  
“ dered me criminal in your eyes—”

“ I see her ! I do not wish,” she con-  
tinued, “ to insult her in her distress ;  
“ but I hope, at least, that you have so  
“ much respect for me as not to bring  
“ her into my presence.”

At these words I kissed her hand, and  
retired further : at that instant my sis-  
ter’s husband made his appearance.

“ Well, Madam,” said he, “ you  
 “ behold your son, whom you thought  
 “ you never more should have seen;  
 “ will you not restore him to your af-  
 “ fection ?”

“ If he was once dear to me,” an-  
 swered my mother, “ ought he to have  
 “ compelled me to hate him ?”

“ Hate me !” I replied, “ hate your  
 “ child !—Oh ! my mother, that child  
 “ always loved *you*.”

She looked at me with more tendernefs;  
 my careffes, and my fister’s intreaties,  
 softened her heart, and fhe called me  
 her fon. In the evening fhe permitted  
 me

me to conduct her to her house, which was at a little distance from that of my brother-in-law, and she offered me an apartment to pass the night in.

I was extremely impatient to return to Marfilla to see my wife and friends again, to let them partake of my hope and joy, in my account of my interview with her whose implacable hatred I feared; from which *they* formed the most sanguine expectations.

“You will recover a mother,” said Mr. Marfilla to me, “and we, perhaps, shall lose a friend.”

“ For my part,” replied his wife, looking tenderly at mine, “ I am sure “ of preserving this friend here :” and immediately those charming women, like two beautiful lilies which the gentle breeze ~~only~~ has separated, embraced, and vowed eternal friendship to each other.

I had not even told my sister that my wife was at St. Domingo : I was willing that she should be presented by my friend as his relation ; flattering myself that chance would one day make her known to my mother, from which event I hoped for every thing, as that tender woman seemed to attract the love of  
all

all others, as by an irresistible charm. My hope was not ill-grounded.

We had scarce been a month at St. Domingo, when Marfilla told my brother-in-law, with whom he had several times before bartered for different things, that he would one day bring Mrs. Marfilla, and present her to his wife; which my brother seemed very desirous of. The day they came to visit my sister, I was there too, and pretended not to know of their design of coming. Some days afterwards I accompanied my sister to Mrs. Marfilla's, where my wife said a thousand agreeable things, which highly pleased her. At our return, she asked me what I thought of the niece

of Mr. Marsilla? meaning my wife.

“She is well enough,” I replied.

“Well enough!” she answered very tartly, “have you ever seen one more  
“amiable? As for myself, she appears  
“charming to me; and without being  
“willing to depreciate the merits and  
“accomplishments of your Parisians,  
“I very much doubt whether you  
“could find one there to excel her.”

I was pleased with her admiration, and provoked her to go further, by saying, “What is it, pray, that you find  
“so astonishing in her?”

“She

“ She has,” she replied, “ in the first  
“ place, a very noble, engaging coun-  
“ tenance, which upon acquaintance  
“ appears as the index of her mind;  
“ a happy choice of expression, a sim-  
“ plicity of manner at the time she is  
“ saying a thousand agreeable things,  
“ which in other women would be ut-  
“ tered with an air of importance; a  
“ soft engaging manner at all times;  
“ in short, she is in possession of every  
“ thing which enables our sex to tri-  
“ umph over yours.”

“ Ah, but, sister,” I replied, “ those  
“ good qualities of hers, which seem to  
“ astonish you so much, all women are  
“ in possession of.”

“ That is your French gallantry and  
 “ politeness, brother: for my own part,  
 “ although a woman, I can with truth  
 “ say, that, among two thousand whom  
 “ I have seen, I know not one who re-  
 “ ssembles her. Those who have sense,  
 “ depreciate or debase in an unbecoming  
 “ manner all those who surround them.  
 “ If they are handsome, their manner  
 “ always says to all men, Adore me,  
 “ but expect nothing in return; and  
 “ destroy, by their imperious and haugh-  
 “ ty looks, all the effect of their charms.  
 “ Others present a regular assemblage  
 “ of features happily formed; but eve-  
 “ ry one says, after viewing them, Why  
 “ has heaven refused her sensibility of  
 “ soul? How much are those charm-  
 “ ing



“ ing faces exposed by laughter with-  
 “ out sense, by stupid silence, by an-  
 “ swers without precision, or, what is  
 “ still worse, by a proud and haughty  
 “ disposition! I do not mention those  
 “ who possess neither beauty nor good  
 “ qualities, but there are those who  
 “ possess neither.”

My sister's husband was of her opi-  
 nion; and they together, after accusing  
 me of injustice, compelled me to do  
 homage to her whose sweetness and af-  
 fability had so much charmed them. In  
 the joy of my heart I said to myself,  
 That beautiful creature will also subdue  
 her who now despises her, and we shall  
 yet be happy.

The esteem of my sister for my wife, made their mutual visits so frequent, that they were almost always together. My mother, when she saw her, to whom a long series of misfortunes had given a peculiar delicacy and softness, felt the same affection for her which all did who knew her. A most intimate friendship immediately succeeded. I had the satisfaction of beholding her every day surrounded by my family, which with her great good qualities increased my love every day. The kind of constraint which the presence of my relations imposed on me, contributed to the pleasure which I experienced in hearing and seeing her near me. The dissimulation which made us reserved,

which

which sometimes prevented my careffes, my defires, and the inchanting fmile which accompanied her refusal, all together increafed the fincere affection I had for her.

However, my mother always preferved an involuntary refentment againft the perfon whom fhe fupposed my wife. The idea of my marriage never prefented itfelf, without her conceiving a violent diflike to me, and contempt for her who had deprived me of my liberty.

One day that we were alone, “ My  
 “ fon,” fhe faid, looking in an unhappy manner at me, “ if you had not  
 “ difpensed with the firft law impofed  
 “ by

“ by nature on a child well bred ; if  
 “ you had respected your mother and  
 “ the honour of your family ; if you  
 “ had been cautious of imbittering the  
 “ days of her who gave you life, by  
 “ forming a shameful dishonourable al-  
 “ liance ; soft pleasing hopes would play  
 “ at this time round my heart : yes, I  
 “ could then flatter myself with seeing  
 “ you the husband of a pretty, tender  
 “ and well-bred woman ; at whose ex-  
 “ istence we should have no reason to  
 “ blush. I should have said, with joy,  
 “ when presenting her to my friends,  
 “ This is my daughter, this is the  
 “ wife of my son ; I should not have  
 “ trembled whilst informing them to  
 “ whom she belonged ; I should have  
 “ openly

“ openly named her parents ; then,  
 “ tranquil and happy, I should have  
 “ formed no wishes but for the happi-  
 “ ness of my children; I should have  
 “ congratulated myself on seeing them,  
 “ and the worthy fruit of their love.  
 “ Oh, my son, why would you so cru-  
 “ elly affect me? By listening to your  
 “ desires, you have drawn misfortunes  
 “ upon yourself, and disgrace to those  
 “ belonging to you.”

I could scarce contain myself whilst  
 my mother was speaking ; I wished to  
 discover the person who appeared so con-  
 temptible to her, to present her before  
 her, and see her blush at her injustice  
 and cruelty. “ But,” she continued, in  
 a more

a more tender manner, “ is the disease  
 “ then without a cure ? That woman  
 “ to whom you have attached yourself,  
 “ without having a proper power, for  
 “ whom you have violated laws the most  
 “ sacred, is she dearer to you than your  
 “ mother ? You cannot be ignorant,  
 “ my son, that the chain you formed  
 “ unknown to me, at an age when your  
 “ will ought to have been submitted to  
 “ mine, justice may break, and I de-  
 “ mand of you to break it. Become  
 “ free ; you may assure the unhappy  
 “ wretch an easy fortune, and I promise  
 “ you it shall be better than she can  
 “ have reason to expect.”

“ What,

“ What, my mother,” said I, interrupting her, “ do I hear this from you ?  
“ Can this be a woman to whom honour is so precious, who thus advises  
“ her son to become perjured, to violate the most solemn oath, to abandon, to cast off, an unfortunate woman, who has no other support than  
“ him ? Alas ! what has that tender virtuous woman done, that I should  
“ put her away ? Would she receive presents basely offered by a criminal  
“ hand ? I have not sold you my love and favours for money, she would  
“ say ; restore me my innocence, and take your gifts away. No,” I cried, stretching out my hands and clapping them on my breast, “ No, good and  
“ virtuous



“ virtuous woman, I will not add to  
 “ thy misfortunes, by exposing you un-  
 “ deservedly to the malicious censure  
 “ of the world as an infamous crea-  
 “ ture; the man you love will not thus  
 “ waste your tears; he already has suf-  
 “ ficient troubles, but the most cruel  
 “ would be to lose the wife whom his  
 “ heart has chosen.”

“ Oh, very well,” replied my mother,  
 “ preserve most carefully that woman  
 “ who is so dear to you; prefer with  
 “ her, shame, indigence, I will not say  
 “ my hatred, as that can no way affect  
 “ an unnatural child; pass both of you  
 “ your wretched days far distant from  
 “ a family, on whom you have first  
 “ brought.



“ brought shame by your unworthy  
“ love ; never present yourself before  
“ me ; you are no longer my son ; you  
“ have yourself renounced that title,  
“ by disposing of your hand without  
“ my consent ; you have trampled on  
“ all laws, you have defied me ; but  
“ you shall suffer for it, your lot is  
“ cast.”

She pronounced these last words in a terrible voice, her eyes became red with passion. I was so affected, that I was unable to answer her. I could only say, in a trembling voice, taking hold of her hand, “ Oh, my dear mother !” when she pushed me away, and immediately quitted the room.

This

This conversation destroyed all my hopes; with an almost broken heart, I determined to dissipate my wretchedness near my dearly beloved wife, and immediately retired thither. Some days had intervened since my last visit there, because my sister had detained me to look over some old papers, and settle an affair which very much puzzled her husband. When my arrival was pronounced, Mrs. Marfilla repeating my name, said with a smile to my wife, “Madam, do you know that gentleman?”

“I believe I have seen him before,” she replied, with a smile, full of sweetness and love; “but it is so long since,  
“ that

“ that I have only a confused idea of  
 “ him.”

The gaiety of those amiable women  
 inspired me with cheerfulness.

“ I see,” I replied, “ that no person  
 “ is sooner forgot than a husband ; I  
 “ shall therefore take care for the fu-  
 “ ture not to absent myself so long.”

“ Sir,” replied that charming woman  
 whom I adore, “ have you the honour  
 “ of being married, and dare absent  
 “ yourself so long a time from your  
 “ wife ? There is great reason to be-  
 “ lieve that she is not your wife.”

“ Alas,

“ Alas,” I said to myself, “ they  
 “ are willing to deprive me of that ti-  
 “ tle. She is mine,” I continued, rais-  
 ing my voice, “ she is the happiness of  
 “ my life,” taking her in my arms at  
 the same time. I was unwilling, lest I  
 should efface her joy, to relate the con-  
 versation of the morning with my mo-  
 ther. I saw my dear Marsilla present-  
 ly appear; I put away my chagrin, and  
 gave myself up to the transports of love  
 and friendship.

The next day, that dear woman, who  
 so well understood how to read my ve-  
 ry heart, and discover all its motions,  
 seeing me uneasy and unhappy, imagin-  
 ed that some new mortifications threaten-  
 ed

ed us. She questioned me ; I was willing to dissemble, but her fears were increased. I found myself forced to recite to her the conversation which I had had with my mother. After my assuring her that I had not discovered the secret of our marriage, she resolved to go to see her ; she flattered herself with reconciling two hearts which pride and prejudice had separated ; but prejudice is oftentimes stronger than reason.

My wife was immediately conveyed to my mother's house, when she found her still restless. Whether her presence again brought to her remembrance the dispute of the preceding day, or whether

ther her distress became more violent, I know not.

“ Madam,” said my wife to her, “ I am afraid I am come at a time that my company is troublesome.”

My mother assured her of the pleasure she took in seeing her, and desired her not to leave her. However, an air of melancholy and sadness was diffused over her countenance; it was easy to discover, notwithstanding her attempts to hide it, that she was unhappy. My wife, after some reflection, appeared sensible of her distress, and desired to know the cause.

“ Madam,”

“ Madam,” replied my mother, “ it  
 “ is of such a nature that it cannot be  
 “ mentioned without shame. You see  
 “ a most unhappy mother, who will to  
 “ the day of her death reproach herself  
 “ for having given life to a son who  
 “ has embittered her days, and disho-  
 “ noured all his family.”

My wife replied; that the few times  
 she had seen him, he appeared to her to  
 possess an excellent mind; that she had  
 never heard him mention his mother  
 but with the greatest respect and tender-  
 est affection.

“ The impostor !” cried my mother.  
 “ If he had loved me, if he had re-  
 VOL. II. D “ spected

“pected me—but, can I inform you  
 “of what I wish I was ignorant my-  
 “self? The wretch has bereft me of  
 “all hopes of happiness.”

“I do not wish,” replied my wife,  
 “to search into what you would wish  
 “to have concealed; but since your  
 “son has a good and compassionate  
 “mother, who interests herself in his  
 “fate, I cannot place him amongst the  
 “number of the unfortunate.”

“Madam, I can do nothing for  
 “him; it no longer depends upon me  
 “to break the shameful bonds he has  
 “entered into, to restore him to that  
 “honour which he has despised. If  
 “he



“ he would, he might yet recover his  
 “ liberty, and efface the blot which he  
 “ has brought on himself and family ;  
 “ but, blinded by a foolish passion, he  
 “ flights the counsels of friendship and  
 “ maternal affection ; he attends only  
 “ to his love, and reckons as nothing  
 “ the happiness of his mother.”

“ Do him more justice, Madam ;  
 “ whoever she is that is the object of  
 “ his affection, I am certain you will  
 “ always be dear to him ; she who has  
 “ gained his heart must be very despica-  
 “ ble, if she effaces the purest senti-  
 “ ments.”

“ Alas, Madam, she is an unfortu-  
“ nate creature born in obscurity, with-  
“ out fortune, without parents—Yes,  
“ Madam, without parents.”

“ Unfortunate indeed! she has most  
“ reason to complain!”

“ Undoubtedly she has reason to com-  
“ plain. But ought my son to have  
“ married her? If he felt some incli-  
“ nation for her, might he not have  
“ offered her assistance, snatched her  
“ from indigence? I should not have  
“ thought his compassion a crime :  
“ but to choose her for a wife, to in-  
“ troduce her into a good family, to  
“ expose himself to want, and at length  
“ to

“ to the resentment of his parent, whom  
 “ he has offended and debased; is not  
 “ this, Madam, the height of folly?  
 “ After having carried it to such a de-  
 “ gree as to entertain contempt and dis-  
 “ dain for the author of his existence,  
 “ can he still flatter himself with pre-  
 “ tensions to my friendship, to my  
 “ heart? If there is an obedience due  
 “ from children to parents, ought I to  
 “ acknowlege him for my son?”

“ I will not attempt to vindicate him;  
 “ he ought not to have disposed of his  
 “ hand without your consent: but per-  
 “ haps the woman he has chosen is not  
 “ so contemptible—”

“ I do not know the unfortunate being; I never saw her; it is too much for me to complain incessantly of the wife of my son, and not dare to pronounce the name of mother before her.”

“ You will be her mother; could she desire a better?”

“ What is that you say, Madam? Shall I adopt as my child the offspring of crime and debauchery? The very thought makes me shudder.”

“ Though the child of sin, she may perhaps be virtuous.”

“ I hope

“ I hope so, Madam ; but my son  
 “ is not the less culpable.”

“ If he loses your affection for ever,  
 “ he would be too severely punished  
 “ for his offence.”

“ That will be to him the least of  
 “ his troubles. Alas, how happy would  
 “ he have been ! Yes,” pursued my  
 mother, looking at my wife, “ if he  
 “ had paid his court to a sensible and  
 “ beautiful woman, who unites the  
 “ charms of the person with the beau-  
 “ ties of the mind, I dare flatter myself  
 “ that she would not have disdained  
 “ his affection, and that her hand would  
 “ have been his reward.”

The amiable person to whom this language was addressed, turned away her eyes and blushed.

“ Charming girl !” continued my mother, “ why were not his eyes placed upon *you* the day that he delivered himself up to that fatal passion which deprived him of his reason ? “ If he had seen *you*, he would have adored you, he would have been your husband, and I should have been honoured in calling you daughter.”

“ Madam,” replied my wife, in a feeble manner, “ your son would not have been more happy, and my  
“ fortune

“fortune would still have been the  
“same.”

“My dear friend, do you say, that  
“he would not have been more happy?  
“Could the insensible creature have  
“complained? would he not be sensi-  
“ble of the value of honour and vir-  
“tue?”

“Virtue and honour are often con-  
“cealed under shame and poverty.”

“Madam,” replied my mother, “I  
“do not comprehend you: would you  
“compare yourself to that obscure girl,  
“who never knew the authors of her  
“days?”

“ Alas ! who owes her more pity  
 “ than myself ? whom as cruel a fate—  
 “ But I am going perhaps to make my-  
 “ self an object of contempt in your  
 “ eyes.”

“ What do you wish to say, Madam ?  
 “ are you not the niece of Mr. Mar-  
 “ filla ? is he not your uncle ?”

“ Madam, I am an unfortunate wo-  
 “ man, my misfortunes took place at  
 “ my birth. The illustrious name of  
 “ my mother has not been able to pre-  
 “ serve the daughter from shame. Wan-  
 “ dering over the earth, which she  
 “ moistens with her tears, she is every  
 “ where subject to distress and humilia-  
 “ tion ;



"tion; all hearts become callous at  
 "her approach; she is debased, treated  
 "with rudeness, and even heaven it-  
 "self seems willing to punish for his  
 "pity the generous man who has taken  
 "care of her, and has not disdained  
 "either her heart or hand."

At these words my mother appeared  
 speechless for some time, she looked up-  
 on my wife with astonishment: surprise,  
 regard, and indignation, succeeded alter-  
 nately; she seemed willing to stifle the  
 sentiment which she felt in her heart.

"Are *you* the unhappy girl who has  
 "led my son astray?" she said. But  
 raising her voice with passion, as if re-

proaching herself for the tenderness she had till that time felt for her; "It is  
 " very impudent of you to present  
 " yourself before me when you know  
 " my aversion."

" You will see her no more, Ma-  
 " dam," interrupted my wife in a soft  
 and melancholy voice; " she has too  
 " much reason to complain, and does  
 " not deserve your hatred: she will no  
 " more expose herself to your anger  
 " and new affronts; she will be silent in  
 " her distress, and shed her tears in so-  
 " litude, till death puts an end to her  
 " misfortunes."

She

She immediately arose, desired Mr. Marfilla's servants might be called, and stepped into the carriage, without my mother shewing the least regret at offending her.

It is impossible to describe my emotion and distress, when, upon hearing the noise of the carriage in the court, I flew to my beloved, I perceived a handkerchief in her hand, drying her tears, and endeavouring to wipe away the signs of them. Her eyes, yet red, gave me a melancholy look; her countenance, all pale and wan, had lost its bloom. She rested her hand upon my arm to descend. Affected with her distress, I had scarce courage enough to ask

ask the cause; but her voice was too weak at that time, and she answered me only with a sigh. We went across the court in silence: as soon as we entered the porch, we saw Mrs. Marfilla advancing to meet us. My wife threw herself into her arms, and, whilst pressing her to her bosom, said to her, "Oh, my good friend, do not abandon me; I am too unfortunate."

She had scarce pronounced these words, than, weak and trembling, she seated herself in an arm-chair: a flood of tears rolled down her cheeks. I held one of her hands, whilst her friend embraced her, and endeavoured to dry her tears; her breathing was short and laborious,

borious, her distress almost suffocated  
 her. I asked her incessantly what had  
 happened to her. Her eyes seemed  
 armed with anger, she seemed to shun  
 my caresses, and endeavoured to get  
 further from me. "What," said I to  
 her, "do you wish to shun me? are  
 "the tender anxieties of your husband  
 "troublesome and disagreeable to you?  
 "You seem to avoid the tenderness of  
 "him who loves you, who knows no  
 "distresses but yours. Am I the in-  
 "nocent cause of the tears which you  
 "shed at this time?"

"Yes, undoubtedly you are the  
 "cause," she replied; "but I do not  
 "wish to reproach you. You have been  
 "desirous

“ desirous of making me happy, and  
 “ you have heaped misfortunes and  
 “ disgrace upon me. If you had left  
 “ me in obscurity, I should not at  
 “ this time have been an object of  
 “ hatred; no one would have had any  
 “ right to reproach me for my exist-  
 “ ence; but now I am complained of,  
 “ I am debased and insulted: but I  
 “ shall not long be so.”

“ Insulted!” I exclaimed, “ insulted!  
 “ you, who do honour to your sex!  
 “ Oh! name the wretch to me, the  
 “ barbarian who could insult the most  
 “ virtuous, the most respectable of wo-  
 “ men. Yes,” I continued in a high-  
 er

er tone of voice, "tell me his name,  
 "and he shall die by this hand."

"Go then, foolish man," my wife  
 replied, not a little terrified at my fe-  
 rocious appearance, "go then and  
 "pierce thy mother's bosom: or ra-  
 "ther plunge the poniard in my heart;  
 "deliver me from the load of life, it  
 "is horrid to me. Yes, death is the  
 "only blessing I seek for from men."

Affected at these expressions, I kneel-  
 ed at her feet, and said, "My dearest  
 "love, how can you be so cruel as to  
 "wish to die? Is your husband no  
 "longer dear to you? Does he not  
 "inspire you with a desire to live?

"Are



“ Are you willing to leave him, and  
 “ plunge him into anguish and de-  
 “ spair?”

Mrs. Marfilla, dissolved in tears, conjured her, in the warmest terms, not to give herself up to such excessive grief: She caressed her with the greatest affection, and tenderly reproached her. Pressed by love and friendship, she yielded to our intreaties, and informed us what had so deeply affected her. She was still so affected with it, that she omitted not even the most minute circumstance of what had passed between her and my mother; she told us that she had formed the most sanguine hopes, when she discovered my mother's wishes  
 for



for my being united to her. She had never seen, she told us, so rapid a change in affection, and such insensibility, when she saw the unhappy cause of all her troubles. “Was it necessary,” she continued, “to cross the wide ocean, to expose myself to all the dangers of a long voyage, to come into a strange world to seek humiliation and contempt, to be slighted by an unjust and haughty family? My heart is above indigence; it knows how to brave misery and distress; but reproach and injuries overwhelm and destroy it.”

When she finished her tale, she reclined her head upon the bosom of her friend,

friend, and tears flowed down her cheeks—in abundance.

What tended to fill up the measure of woe to that tender sensible woman, was a letter of my sister's to me, which fell into her hands. I was absent when a negro brought it, and he seemed to wait an answer. My wife took the liberty of opening it, and found the following lines.

“ **M**Y dear brother, my friend,  
 “ why would you place so lit-  
 “ tle confidence in her, whose greatest  
 “ happiness would be to contribute to  
 “ yours? The person whom I ho-  
 “ nour, whom I shall ever respect,  
 “ should

“ should not have known the unwor-  
“ thy treatment she has received, or  
“ I now deprived the pleasure of seeing  
“ her. Yesterday Mr. de Servens, on  
“ his return from my mother, appear-  
“ ed much disturbed. I enquired what  
“ had happened. Is it a long time,  
“ he asked me in an imperious man-  
“ ner, in that tone which is so familiar  
“ to him, since you have seen your  
“ new friend, that woman who ap-  
“ peared so marvellous to you? What!  
“ do you mean Mr. Marfilla’s relation?  
“ I said. Relation or not, he warmly  
“ replied, is it a long time since you  
“ saw her? It is some days, I answer-  
“ ed; but I hope to pay Mrs. Marfilla  
“ a visit to-morrow, when I shall have  
“ the

“ the pleasure of embracing her. It  
 “ is very well, he said; but I com-  
 “ mand you never to set your foot in  
 “ that house again. Learn, he conti-  
 “ nued in a yet more haughty manner,  
 “ learn to know those whom chance  
 “ presents to your acquaintance before  
 “ you become intimate with them.  
 “ But, I said, they are your friends,  
 “ they are my brother’s friends too. If  
 “ your brother, he replied, knew how  
 “ to make himself respected, and had  
 “ been cautious of disgracing his fami-  
 “ ly, there is good reason to believe  
 “ we should never have seen them.  
 “ Mr. Marfilla, I answered, is not a  
 “ man for whose friendship you have  
 “ occasion to blush, and his wife is of  
 “ a very

“ a very good family. It may be so,  
“ he said; but the person that is with  
“ them, is the unhappy creature that  
“ your brother ought never to have  
“ known, yet less to have married.  
“ Judge, my dear friend, of my asto-  
“ nishment, when I was informed that  
“ that amiable engaging woman was  
“ your wife. I shall not be so base, so  
“ contemptible, as to blush at being her  
“ sister; her misfortunes make her still  
“ dearer to me. My friend, if heaven  
“ has refused a father to her, who is  
“ so worthy of your love, it has not  
“ granted to your sister the husband  
“ her heart would have desired. But  
“ I had determined never to speak to  
“ you of my distresses: may this let-  
“ ter,

“ter, my dear brother, not augment  
 “yours.”

“P. S. I have yet a few words to  
 “say to you: but shall I be able to  
 “write them? Mr. de Servens went  
 “into your apartment, where he had  
 “the cruelty to order it to be stripped  
 “of its furniture. He bid me tell you,  
 “that he was not willing to offend  
 “my mother by receiving you. Alas!  
 “I read in his soul, covetous after  
 “riches, I see spring up again the hope  
 “which your arrival had destroyed.  
 “The most pleasing hope of mine, my  
 “dear brother, is to see you more hap-  
 “py.”

Adieu.

At

At my return my wife gave me the letter, and said to me, in a manner which indicated her distress, “ My dearest, “ best friend, I expose you every day “ to new troubles: you ought to hate “ me.”

“ Hate you !” I replied, “ hate her “ who is the only comfort of my life! “ Men may persecute us, but they can “ never ravish my love from you; I “ will defy all the fury of fortune to “ do that. But,” continued I, in a softer tone of voice, “ if you forsake “ me, where shall I go? or where find “ strength to resist misfortunes?”



Alas! chagrin had already affected her sensible soul, and was increasing its ravages every day. It was in vain that her friends endeavoured to dispel her melancholy ideas, and once more bring joy in her heart; her melancholy became obvious to every one. If I reproached her gently, from a fear of losing her; from her willingness to recover my drooping spirits, she increased my fears; the smile of grief was perceptible on her lips, her tears mingled with her tenderness, and escaped, notwithstanding her desire to prevent them. I observed her inclination for solitude: she did not avoid her friends when they came in her way, but she never sought them.

“ You



“ You are no longer happy with me,  
 “ my tender friend,” I said to her one  
 day: “ you seem sometimes to prefer  
 “ being alone to seeing of me. Oh!  
 “ you know not how necessary you are  
 “ to my happiness, or what charms  
 “ I find in listening to you. Without  
 “ you, could I know the sweets of  
 “ friendship? It is with you that my  
 “ friends are dear to me.”

“ Heaven grant that you preserve  
 “ those generous friends,” she replied;  
 “ they will help you to support your  
 “ troubles. But,” she continued, look-  
 ing at me with tenderness, “ perhaps  
 “ you will have no more to undergo.”

“What is it that you say? Cruel  
 “woman!” I said, taking hold of her  
 hand. “Ah! I see that you wish to  
 “die.—You wish to leave your hus-  
 “band. Is it thus you ought to put  
 “an end to his misfortunes? Love and  
 “friendship, have they no longer any  
 “power over your soul? don’t they  
 “incline you to wish for life?”

“It is overwhelmed with distress,”  
 she replied. “Alas, who knows it  
 “more than yourself? Wanderers, fu-  
 “gitives, misery, and contempt, have  
 “followed us from clime to clime.  
 “False hope till now has supported  
 “my courage: but I perceive that my  
 “spirits forsake me, my faculties be-  
 “come

“ come weak, my heart flutters, my  
 “ desires, on all sides rejected, begin  
 “ to die away. Yes, but for you, I  
 “ could bid death a joyful welcome.  
 “ Alas ! that it would at the same  
 “ stroke divide the thread of your un-  
 “ happy days ! That we could but depart  
 “ together ! — Hope, the food of the  
 “ unfortunate, has already disappeared.  
 “ When our friends bid adieu to this  
 “ country, shall we give the inhabi-  
 “ tants a view of our indigence ? Then,  
 “ abandoned, we shall be like those  
 “ whom hunger humbles ; extended  
 “ upon the earth, they are in tortures,  
 “ and loudly complain ; the unhappy  
 “ traveller turns aside his head, and  
 “ goes

“ goes farther off, to avoid hearing their  
“ lamentations.”

Such were the melancholy ideas that that tender woman, worn down with misfortunes, was constantly environed with. Every day I saw her declining, the paleness of death was spread over her cheeks ; her eyes were languid, and had lost their lustre : her face was the very picture of distress, and her steps were weak and slow. I was so affected with her state, that I no longer thought of either the aversion of my mother, or uneasiness of my sister. I reproached myself every moment for bringing her amongst my own family, and exposing to contempt so tender, so engaging, so good a woman :

man: her danger made me furious; hatred possessed my very soul; I swore that I never would see *her* again, who had driven me from her house, and so cruelly offended me.

One day that I was with her, and using every effort to dispel her melancholy, we saw Mrs. Marfilla enter the apartment.

“ My dear friend,” she said, embracing her, “ behold your sister coming to see you. You who are so amiable, so engaging, could you imagine that you would always be an object of hatred and contempt?”

At that instant my sister entered the apartment, and ran with open arms to my beloved wife. She could not conceal her surprise at seeing her so thin and changed.

She informed us, that my mother had gone the preceding evening to town; that in alighting from her carriage, she had met with a very bad fall, which confined her to her bed; that her husband had immediately gone to her, and had commanded her not to leave the house the next day. “I am ignorant,” she continued, “of the cause of an order, so unjust as to conceal from me, from my tender embraces, a sister  
“ whose

“ whose misfortunes render her still  
 “ dearer to me.”

Full of gratitude, my wife seemed to take new life in the arms of her who tenderly caressed her, who appeared so affected with her fate, and seemed to promise her a better. Her face became again lovely from pleasure and hope.

Her fear, lest her husband should know that she was come to Mrs. Marfilla's house, would not permit my sister to continue long with us. When she departed, she told us she would the next day use all her efforts to reconcile us with my mother, notwithstanding the



obstacle which opposed her, and nourished her aversion for the most amiable of women.

I sent immediately to enquire how my mother did. The next day I was informed that her danger increased, and the physicians were doubtful of her recovery. I forgot my oaths, and her insults; I flew to town. I met a negro of my sister's on the road, who told me that I must come immediately, if I wished to see a tender mother, who was desirous of embracing her son before death. What emotion, what distress did I feel, when I saw that respectable parent weak and dying, fixing her almost expiring looks on me, and extending



tending her hand, which I covered with kisses, and moistened with tears ! My presence, my transports, the tender epithets by which I called her, affected her.

“ My son, my dear son,” she said in a feeble voice, “ I have made you very  
 “ unhappy. Where is your wife ? Oh,  
 “ tell her that I pardon you your love.  
 “ If I had listened to my heart the day  
 “ I wasted her tears, she would have  
 “ been near me, and I should have had  
 “ no cause to reproach myself.”

“ She has forgot all,” I said to her ;  
 “ she regrets only the loss of your friend-  
 “ ship.”

“ That I could but see her,” replied my mother, “ that I could embrace her, “ and call her my daughter !”

“ Oh, best of mothers,” I cried, tenderly pressing her hands, “ she will “ be here, you will see her, she will be “ at your feet.”

“ It is me, yes it is me,” replied my mother in anguish and repentance, “ who “ ought to be at hers.”

I had ordered my sister's slave to continue his route, and tell my wife that I desired she would come to town with the utmost expedition. Mr. Marfilla ordered his horses immediately to his chaise,

chaife, and accompanied her. Upon their arrival they enquired for me. The moment I perceived them, I flew to embrace them, and tears of joy and distress mingled together. I led my wife to the side of my mother's bed.

“Behold,” said I, “the person whom you wished to see.”

She was willing to take her in her arms, and call her daughter; but her strength failed her, and her words died away upon her lips. She pressed her gently to her bosom. In ecstasy my sister and myself alternately embraced her. In the joy of our hearts we forgot the danger of the author of our days;

days; but the physicians, who then made their appearance, brought us back again to distress and fear. Their vague answers, their caution, made us foresee a speedy dissolution. Her strength and life evaporated in our arms. She fell into a fainting, which all the art of medicine could scarce recover her from. Her eyes opened to see her children once more, and immediately afterwards she fell back in another fit. We saw her grow pale, tremble, and die immediately.

Mr. de Servens appeared soon afterwards. When he saw my wife and me, he could not conceal his chagrin and fears. He interrogated all the domesticks,

ticks, and looked at his wife with fury. I was so affected, that I did not observe his emotions. But my wife discovered his agitations, and a maid-servant of my mother's told her, that that man, since he had been allied to the family, had employed his utmost attention to increase the fault I had been guilty of, in marrying without my mother's consent; that he had constantly spoke of the shame and dishonour of my alliance; that he had at length carried it to that excess, as to cause my being disinherited by a will which my mother had revoked since my return. But our last quarrel had re-animated the hopes of Mr. de Servens; he flattered himself that he should again be able to get me excluded

ed

ed from the inheritance of my parents ; he had fed my mother's resentment, by speaking of my dissimulation upon the arrival of my wife, and the boldness with which I had presented her under a false name.

When he was informed that she was dangerously ill, he wished to see her without witnesses, in order to persuade her to give to him and his children the valuable estate and mansion she was in possession of. Overwhelmed with pain and his importunities, my mother made him sensible how incapable she was of executing such an affair at that time, and desired him to go to her house in the country,

country, and bring from thence an elixir, of which she had a good opinion.

As he departed, my sister arrived. She mentioned my uneasiness to my mother, and the desire I had of seeing her; she aroused in her heart the voice of nature, and again restored the tender sentiments which her husband had endeavoured to extirpate. That good and sensible mother reproached herself for her injustice to her son, and cruelty to the wife he had chosen; and her death destroyed all the hopes of Mr. de Servens.

My wife and self passed in a moment from extreme misery to the greatest opulence.



opulence. Heaven is my witness, that interest did not dry up the source of my tears; in the midst of my riches I felt no base unnatural joy. Alas! what have those useless riches done for my happiness? Am I not at this time poorer than in my indigence? I had a tender and virtuous wife, whom I adored, and who loved me in return: I was then the richest of men, and am now become the most miserable. Oh horrid, frightful day, when I saw death strike my beloved wife, as the ferocious hawk strikes the fearful dove. My dearest wife, in vain my hands pressed you to my heart; in vain I attempted to re-animate you by my kisses, to share with thee the breath of life; death snatched you



you from my embraces. The cruel men who furrounded me, had no pity on my lamentations, my tears could not soften them. Oh, Marfilla, wherefore did you stop my hand? Cruel friend, you have prolonged my evils; you, who promised to return my love, have sported with my credulity; your fruitless art perhaps increased the length of her days, and the misfortunes of mine. Since that cruel moment, when the doleful knell struck my listening ear, and called into the dreary tomb the only charm of my life, my heart sinks under the weight of my agony. Thus the groaning slave with difficulty bears the chain he cannot break, and washes it with his tears; I seek with slow and solemn

solemn pace a melancholy solitude ; the head held down, the eye bedimmed and fixed upon the earth, I dare not enjoy beauties of the heavens ; my sight is wounded with its lustre ; the pale torch which glimmers in the melancholy darkness around, is a star which pleases me most. Whilst all nature reposes, I alone roam afar, and return fatigued to seat myself on that stone which conceals from my eyes the brilliant flower which death has destroyed with his poisonous breath. If sleep sometimes close my wearied eyes, my soul seems to pass immediately into excessive woe. As soon as the bird extends his pinions, I lose myself in the forest he has quitted. I wish the moment which timid mortals fear

to

to approach ; I should smile at the appearance of death, as the wandering infant who sees its mother, and extend my arms to welcome him. Oh, most powerful Being, whose breath inspires all things, extinguish the lamp of my life ; deign to take to yourself the unhappy creature who crawls upon the earth, and unite him again to her who formed his happiness. \*

\* The wishes of this tender husband, who deserved a better fate, were fulfilled ; his two friends had not the pleasure of seeing him long survive her, whom distress, poverty, and prejudice, had before cruelly condemned to the grave.

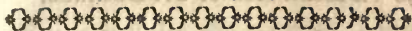
Mrs. Marfilla, whom heaven has preserved for her venerable parents, still loves to converse with her husband about the two unfortunates ; he often  
finds

finds her in tears for the death of her unhappy friend.

By publishing these memoirs, which friendship intrusted me with, I cannot flatter myself with preventing the fatal effects of prejudice, which stifles the purest sentiments, which substitutes for the light brilliant chain of love, the unhappy bond of interest. Unhappy victims of avarice and pride, will you always sacrifice your happiness and that of your children to chimeras?

*End of the Memoirs of an American.*

A SHORT



A SHORT  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
ISLAND OF ST. DOMINGO.

**T**HIS island, one of the largest of the Antilles, has borne different names. When it was discovered by Christopher Columbus, in the year 1492, the inhabitants called it *Haiti*; which, in the language of the Indians, signifies, *mountainous land*.

It is of considerable extent, and interperfed with high mountains, at the  
foot

foot of which there are very fine plains, some of which are fifteen and twenty leagues in circumference. The French get immense riches from such as are in their possession, in sugar, coffee, indigo, cocoa, &c.

This island is situated in the north sea, at the mouth of the gulph of Mexico; it is not less than four hundred leagues round, and near a hundred and twenty four in length from east to west: its breadth differs; in some places it is not more than twenty eight leagues. The whole latitude of the island extends from about seventeen to twenty degrees: its longitude is not precisely ascertained.

France possesses about a third; what they enjoy extends from the river Mafacre, in the eastern part of the isle to the river Neybe, the most southward of any place in the possession of the French.

Notwithstanding St. Domingo is in the torrid zone, the air is very temperate, but several parts of it are unhealthy.

The French part of the island is infinitely more rich and populous than that which belongs to Spain. That part contains only one capital city called Santo Domingo, and some small towns where the people languish in the greatest

misery. That belonging to the French, every where presents the most flourishing appearances. Its commerce is very great: it every year employs in its imports and exports near four hundred merchant-ships from all parts of France, and loaded with riches which are dispersed over the whole kingdom. There is every where such an appearance of opulence as cannot fail striking strangers: there are some cities which are not much inferior to many in Europe, and many towns which might pass for small cities. The principal are the Cape, Port-au-Prince, where annually reside the governor and intendant; Leogane, Saint-Mark, Cayes-Saint-Louis, Little Goave, Fort-Dauphin, &c.

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The city of the Cape, which is the capital, is situated on the sea-shore; its road is very spacious, and is capable of containing more than four hundred ships: its entrance is defended by a fort which is built on a mountain, from whence it can destroy every vessel of the enemy which offers to make its approach. In this city a multitude of strangers, led thither by the hopes of soon acquiring a large fortune, spread riches and industry among the inhabitants. It becomes every day more beautiful and extensive. The outside of the houses are very uniform: architecture has decorated them, and expelled that bad taste which before prevailed, when they were less regular and substantial:

they now consist of no more than one story in general.

*Robt Come*

The streets are straight and crossed at equal distances. Among others, there is one street in particular where the merchants principally reside, where interest displays every thing that can raise the attention and flatter the taste of the American; but he has learned to be no longer a dupe to appearances. Lodgings are infinitely dearer here than either at Paris or London; all kinds of eatables are at such a price as terrify ignorant strangers who arrive there, and damp their hopes. What yet more tends to dissipate them, is the abundance of merchandize, which are often to be bought

bought at a lower price than in the country where they were made. Sometimes the stranger can scarce guard himself during his residence from extreme distress, by the disposal of what he thought would have made his fortune.

Port-au-Prince, next to the Cape, is the most populous city, although it is new built. The buildings are not very regular, but the streets are very straight, and shaded with trees which guard off the sun, and make the place airy. The governor has fixed it as his residence \*.

\* The readers who attach some importance to what preserves social order, and assures men peace and equity, will find at the end of this work a description of the government, and the manner of distributing justice in St. Domingo.

It is not so well defended from its situation as the Cape.

I shall not stop here to describe all the cities belonging to St. Domingo, as it is an island generally known; hope has led thither so many Europeans, who have returned again, that I should only repeat what perhaps has been said a thousand time before.

In the suburbs of the cities are different habitations; it is there the rich American displays all the pageantry of his wealth; his large estates are covered with those black men, whom nature has condemned to reproach and labour. Dispersed in the fields, they dig the  
land

land for the planting of the canes, and destroy the weeds which spring up inconceivably fast.

In the evening those unhappy wretches retire to their huts, and forget, near their wives or mistresses, the fatigues of the day, and the wretchedness of their state.

No one can be ignorant of the great severity used by their tyrants in the punishing of the most trifling offences. That barbarous treatment, which they undergo in the most humiliating situation, affects even them with such poignant agony, that a white man would die under such torture.

It has been for some time feared, that in consequence of the negroes increasing in number every day, they would in time make themselves masters of the island, and extirpate the white people. But, from studying the principles which actuate them, there may be discovered a base and servile soul, which renders them incapable of perpetrating great crimes, or opposing great virtues. Timid and fearful, their revenge is always obscure. Accustomed from the earliest infancy to a state of servitude, they are insensible to that indignation which would lead them to break the yoke, and restore the slave to his natural liberty. They console themselves in their misfortunes, and are not at all affected with

with the sufferings of their fellow-slaves, though they themselves were their executioners. Interest will break the league which unites them, because they have no other than such as pleasure and debauchery have created. The most violent passion which the negro is sensible of, is that of love: that inflames his heart, and makes him brave distress, or even death.

There is no universal standard for the dispositions of all negroes. The different countries from whence they derive their origin, the variety of objects which present themselves, the kind of life, more or less laborious, to which they are accustomed in their youth,



their constitution being more or less robust, all these form different shades in each individual, and change their native dispositions in some degree. Amongst some, a stupid insensibility makes them callous to their misfortunes and severity of their masters, whilst a mortal melancholy attacks others, which is incurable. Several accelerate their death by suspending themselves on a tree, others by poison, whilst the cruelties they suffer from their masters generally inspire them with the design. There are some, who are more cruel in their revenge, and poison a great number of their comrades, to ruin him whose property they are.

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The American or Creole is naturally haughty: it is from their pride that their best qualities take their source; he is generous, and exercises hospitality in the most noble manner. In every habitation, the traveller meets with what is necessary to recruit his strength. He used formerly to be received with more confidence; but it has been so often abused, that there are no longer those things set out, which might tempt and even disgrace poverty.

The Creole women are tall for the most part, but their skin is not so white as that of the Europeans; they are in general very well formed, their sensations are acute, and violent passions are

every where discovered in them; they are haughty and imperious, and are born with an independent disposition. Perhaps they might be improved, if their education was less neglected. The tenderness of their mothers allow them such liberties in their infancy, as must inevitably surprise a stranger, who has been used to see sweetness and modesty in young persons of their sex.

The speculative man, who travels over the island of St. Domingo, would meet with some few objects to pique his curiosity. Some wild plants which grow upon the high mountains, whose properties are unknown to the oldest inhabitants, might, perhaps, if submitted

ted to a chemical analysis, become exceedingly valuable.

The woods have no rare animals, nor are there any apes to be seen; parroquets sometimes appear in great numbers. The humming bird, whose plumage is very glossy, is the most beautiful bird belonging to the island; but it is so very small and wild, and its flight so quick, that it is very difficult to surprise it.

Among the various productions which make the riches of this island, such as cocoa, coffee, indigo, &c. the principal, and what brings the greatest advantage to the inhabitants, is the sugar-cane.

Through-

## TIO DESCRIPTION OF ST. DOMINGO.

Throughout America there is no place where it is better cultivated, grows in greater abundance, or produces more good sugar, than in St. Domingo. It grows with a top, like the dry reed: its leaves, roots and stalk are like it, and it differs only from the common reed, by the latter being hollow, that it commonly grows taller, less thick, in proportion to the distance of the knots being greater, and that it commonly grows in watery and marshy places. The sugar-cane, on the contrary, thrives best in the earth that is deep, and but little exposed to water, although it grows in all soils indifferently well: its rind is not so hard as the reeds, and it is much heavier, by reason of the pithy substance

stance it contains, which affords us that mild sweet juice, that by the force of fire is brought to sugar.

They may plant the canes in all seasons, provided that some light rains precede and follow the planting, that they may imbibe earth enough to resist for some days the burning rays of the sun, and take root.

In like manner they may cut them at any time, if the cane is come to maturity: but it must however be observed, that they will yield less at the time of the rainy seasons, because it will occasion a very great degree of vegetation, which indeed will occasion a larger quantity

quantity of juice, but it will be crude and vapid, and produce but little sugar.

The plantation that succeeds the best, is what is called a *plantation from slips*. They begin with cutting pieces of cane from fifteen to eighteen inches in length sloping from the head. When they have properly prepared the earth, they mark rows at equal distances, which ought to be two feet and a half, and sometimes four feet asunder, according to the quality of the land; they dig holes eighteen or twenty inches long, twelve or fourteen wide, and six deep, in which they place three or four plants set against each other, but a little out  
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of the straight line. After having placed these plants gently declining, upon a little soft, light earth, they cover them, half filling the trench, or sometimes entirely, according as the season is more or less rainy. These plants soon push out stems with tufts, and shoot into the earth a quantity of hairy roots, which extend to a great depth.

The first emoluments arising from a piece of cane is fixed at fifteen or eighteen months; this is what is called rolling the great canes. This first cutting is what produces the most sugar in the lands long cultivated.

When



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When canes are planted in a favourable soil, they will yield four or five cuttings, from the same pieces, before replanting; but if it is dry, if it is not replanted after the first or second cutting, their shoots will then be dry, hard, and abortive, and will not answer the expences.

The canes which grow in light, deep soils afford sugar easy to make, and generally fine, if they are cut at the true point of maturity. The reason is obvious; the land contains less active salts; vegetation is slower; the canes produced are less loaded with crude phlegm, they do not grow so high, and increase more gently, which occasion the juice to  
be



be better disposed for the formation of sugar; and as in general they become less confused, the heat of the sun penetrates them more, and they come to a more perfect maturity.

On the contrary, those that are planted in new, very fresh or damp soil, have so quick a vegetation, that they become very tall in a short time, very thick, and extremely loaded with tufts. The sun then not being able to penetrate them, they do not arrive at the sufficient degree of maturity for the perfection of sugar.

The earliest authors who have spoke of the sugar-cane, have made it originate

nate in the East Indies, brought from thence by the Spaniards and Portuguese to Madeira, and the Canary islands, and from thence to the Antilles of America. This is the generally received opinion; but Father Labat is of opinion, with some other writers, that it never was carried to America, but that it is as natural a production of that country as the East Indies. He rests his opinion upon Thomas Gage, an Englishman, who said, that at Guadelupe, in the year 1625, the savages brought him sugar-canes; upon Ximenes, a Frenchman, who says, in his treatise on the plants of Mexico, that the cane grows in the neighbourhood of the river Plata; upon John Lery, who, in 1556, says, that

that he saw it at Brazil; and upon Father Hennepin, a Franciscan, who also says, that he has seen it on the banks of the Mississipi \*, and John de Laet, at the island of St. Vincent. He adds, that the French have found it at St. Christopher's, Martinico, and Guadelupe. But what will these testimonies weigh with those of the first historians of America, with that of the author of the Natural History of Cocoa and Su-

\* Father Hennepin has certainly mistaken the simple reed for the sugar-cane, in the lands near the mouth of the Mississipi. On going up that river, there are whole forests of dry reeds to be seen, in the marshy lands, whilst the stagnating water is no way proper for the nourishment of the sugar-cane.

gar, with what Rauwolff and Benson have said, attesting that the sugar-cane was originally from the Oriental climes. If the sugar-canes are natives of the continent of America and the West Indies too, why was there no appearance of that plant in the island of St. Domingo, either in the French or Spanish part of the island? There is indeed a species of the reed, but it is destitute of the quality of the sugar-cane. The climate and soil however are as proper as the lands about the river Plata, or the island of Guadelupe.

There remains but little more for me to execute the design I proposed, than just to say a few words about the origin

gin of the French possessions in the island of St. Domingo.

The Spaniards had already extended their empire on the continent of America : with sword in hand they had spread over that unfortunate country, which incloses such riches in its bosom ; a numerous race of people had made their disappearance, and the conquerors, all covered with blood, peaceably enjoyed the fruit of their victories : vessels loaded with gold of the new world, were sailing incessantly to enrich Spain, and increase yet more their haughtiness and power. France and England could not see without envy such vast possessions invaded and pillaged by a people more happy

happy than formidable: both attempted to turn the course of that source, which every where diffused such abundance. If those two nations, always divided, always jealous, had united their forces, they might have taken from Spain all her conquests, and left them in contempt, and ashamed of their barbarities.

In 1625, the French, under the command of two captains of ships, and the English, commanded by a man named Warner, arrived at St. Christophers at nearly the same time. United by interest and necessity, those two people marched in concert against the Caribbees, who were the inhabitants of  
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that isle, and divided between them the spoils of their enemies.

The king of Spain was uneasy when he heard that the French and English had invaded the island of St. Christopher, and formed an establishment there. He gave orders to Frederick de Toledo, who commanded a fleet sent against the Dutch, to expel those new inhabitants, whose ambition he feared. A man named Du Rossey, one of the chiefs of the French, who ought to have opposed the landing of their enemies, having more than nine hundred men with him, shamefully abandoned all his posts. The victorious Spaniard insisted upon all the English and French quitting the isle, and

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threatened to destroy every man of them he should find at his return. After making them embark, he pursued his course.

However, the English, beaten about by tempests, and having nothing more to fear from the distant enemy, returned again to the island, and were soon followed by several French. The rest, who had departed with their captain, being joined by several French and English adventurers, approached the Spanish island, to which has since been given the name of St. Domingo; and finding the north side abandoned by the Castilians, they settled there.



It cost those Frenchmen more trouble to maintain and increase their possessions in that isle, than the Spaniards had known in conquering the greatest part of America. They found good and fearful men who offered them refreshments, who served them for guides, and who brought them the metal they were so avaricious of. Their very princes deigned to visit them, sent away their suite when they approached them, and shewed them the greatest confidence. One of them, after loading their chief with presents, obtained permission to build a city in his kingdom, who gave him as much land as he would take.

If the thirst after gold which fired them had been extinct; if jealousy and hatred had not divided them; if a brutal haughtiness had not made their hearts callous to humanity, to gratitude, to pity, they would have been masters of the finest and most fertile countries of America; they would have found immense riches in the bowels of the earth; they would not have been debased and dishonoured by the murder of their benefactors; they would not have reduced to servitude, or punished with a shameful death, those chiefs who were too noble and generous to suffer slavery; the indefatigable Columbus would not have had his triumphant hands loaded with chains; he

would

would not have been insulted by the people whom he had enriched, and his successors had never known death by poisoned arrows.

The French, on the contrary, without support, without succours, had to engage an enemy elated with success, who covered the ocean with their vessels, who waged war with them like robbers, disowned by their own country. Nevertheless, they surmounted all the obstacles which opposed their advancement, and shortly became a terror to their enemies. The buccaneers and freebooters were the ramparts which preserved that little republic, and prevented the eruptions of the Spaniards. We

will give a slight sketch of those two classes of men, whose valour has made them so celebrated.

It was very difficult for the new inhabitants of St. Domingo to attend to the cultivation of their lands. Incessantly harrassed by an enemy who ravaged their fields, who carried away the fruits of their labour, they chose a kind of life which nature seemed to favour, and at the same time increased their bravery.

A prodigious quantity of wild oxen filled the woods of the islands: the Dutch offered to the inhabitants to purchase their skins, and furnish them in  
exchange

exchange with every thing they might have occasion for. A number of them immediately associated together, and formed a body; united by interest, they forgot their origin, and changed their names. Unwilling to follow any longer the rules of custom, they no longer acknowledged any master; there reigned the greatest equality among them; they were willing to depend upon nature and their articles; they pulled off their clothes they used to wear, and clad themselves in a shirt dyed in the blood of animals, a pair of drawers, a large belt armed with sharp knives, a fusil, and a hanger, a hat with no brim, except before, and shoes made of the skin of wild hogs. As soon as day-light ap-

peared, these formidable hunters dispersed themselves, and went a great way into the woods, followed by a pack of dogs. Neither the precipices, nor rugged and thorny paths, could stop them; they broke down every thing that opposed itself to their hasty steps, their ardour for the chase raised them above every thing. When the beast they pursued became wearied, the dogs surrounded it, and made the woods ring with their barking; the buccaneer, armed with his fusil, ran up and fired at the beast, who was struggling against death. More ferocious than the beast itself, he threw himself upon it, and finished with his knife what he had begun with his fusil, skinned it, took

a bone

a bone from it, broke it, and, warm with the chase, sucked the marrow it contained.

After killing a certain number of cattle, all the hunters assembled to dinner. Let any one imagine a troop of men, covered with blood, as we may say, spread on a plain, seated upon the ground, and devouring the meat, before the colour was well changed by the fire; all of them full of the notion of liberty, speaking in a tumultuous manner of their chase and their enemies, and breathing only carnage, and they will even then have only an imperfect idea of those savage men, who seemed to go farther from humanity every day.

This independent life, devoid of fear and desire, appeared so seducing, that several youths of some family, whom a spirit of liberty had led amongst them, would not forsake them afterwards, and disdained going to France to possess inheritances that would enrich them.

The Spaniards used every effort to extirpate the buccaneers; they killed several of them who had strayed too far from their comrades; but the rest immediately reunited, and marched against the Spaniards, who could not resist the impetuosity of their courage, and had no other means of destroying them, than by destroying the wild oxen. Those animals became so scarce afterwards,



wards, that the buccaneers, finding no more, were forced to live by cultivating the land, and dealing in tobacco, which, before the establishment of companies, brought large sums of money into the new colony.

A great number of buccaneers, who could not comply with the uniform and peaceable life of cultivation, became freebooters. At first, the body of the freebooters were chiefly composed of miserable sailors: embarked in their small canoes, which could not contain more than five and twenty men, they went and surprised the fishermens barks, and took from them every thing they could find. The reunion of many of the buccaneers having

increased their numbers, they attempted greater things; they had often the rashness to go and attack large vessels, which might have easily sunk them, if chance, great expertness, and an astonishing intrepidity, had not raised them, if I may be allowed the expression, above all danger. When they were once aboard, however numerous the crew might be, they soon made themselves masters of the vessel; they oftentimes began by sinking their own vessel to the bottom. Exposed to the injuries of the weather, they passed days and nights upon the sea, in the midst of storms, driven about by winds, and pressed with hunger. If they perceived a vessel, it was of but small consequence

quence to what nation it belonged; they made to it with all the fury of despair, braved death, and struck with astonishment their ghastly enemies. They were considered as so terrible, and their boldness had caused them such amazing success, that the Spaniards dared no longer contend with them, and often delivered themselves up, only asking their lives; but a considerable prize only could disarm them. If they found nothing, they were implacable, and hurled into the sea the unfortunate wretches who had nothing to give them. The historians relate from the valour of the free-booters things that are incredible. Antiquity presents us with nothing equal to the heroism and savageness of these robbers,

robbers. In the midst of their crimes they still preserved some signs of religion. Their prayers and vows, when delivered from danger, would lead one to suspect that they believed in a just God. But if in their course they went ashore, they would ransack the churches, carry away the sacred vessels and bells, and often spill the blood of men.

The government of Saint Domingo had occasion for all their address to restrain that savage banditti, accustomed to live by rapine. When any expedition was supposed to be designed, the inhabitants were obliged to stay upon the island to defend it, under pain of punishment. Mr. Dangeron, to whom  
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the French colony this day owes its flourishing condition, who sacrificed, for its preservation and improvement, his fortune, repose, and life, found out the method of making himself feared and beloved by the free-booters. His courage surpris'd them, and his goodness seem'd to soften their savage disposition. He commanded one part of them to clear the lands, and increase the number of the inhabitants. The fate of one of the boldest chiefs they ever had, also discouraged several from following a life where the advantages could never compensate for the trouble and danger. That intrepid free-booter stiled himself the Olonois; he was thus called, because he sprung originally from

from the blacks of Olonne. He was at first a buccaneer's valet. His courage soon elevated him above servitude; and a desire of distinguishing himself, led him to join the free-booters. He gave such signal proofs of his valour, that he was soon appointed to the command of a vessel.

It was then his talents discovered themselves; his intrepidity increased. Although his vessel was small, he took such considerable prizes, that he was stiled the Spaniards Scourge. As subtle as brave, he escaped from his enemies, into whose hands his rashness precipitated him. In supporting a very bloody engagement against a whole army,

army, he saw all his people perish with their arms in their hands. All his friends already dead, he trembled at the danger which surrounded him; he threw himself amongst the dead, by which means he became covered with blood; his enemies, not doubting his sharing the fate of his comrades, gave themselves up to joy, and lighted fires to celebrate their victory, and his death: the Olonois arose in the dead of the night, cloathed himself in the habit of a Spaniard who lay dead on the field of battle, and went to a town, where he promised liberty to some slaves, if they would join him in their master's canoe which was on the coast; he persuaded them,



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them, and returned to the island of Tortuga.

The Spaniards soon followed them. The governor of the Havannah, being much irritated, sent against him a frigate mounted with ten pieces of canon, and manned with fourscore seamen. The Olonois had fifty men, and two canoes. He saw the frigate enter a small river; he advanced with his men, equally divided in the two canoes, in the night, one on each side of the river; he disembarked his men, and made a breast-work with his canoe, which he hawled up behind some trees, and ordered the same manœuvre on the other side of the river. As soon as day appeared, all the



the free-booters began to fire on the frigate. The Spaniards, who could not see their enemies, fired at random, and killed none of them. The blood which run in streams out of the scupper holes of the frigate, indicated to the Olonois the disorder of the crew: he ordered his canoes to be immediately launched, embarked, boarded the frigate, and made himself master of it. In his fury he dealt death to all who fell in his way. A slave, trembling with dread, threw himself at his feet, and promised to tell the truth, if he would spare his life. The Olonois, being surprised, pledged himself to restore even his liberty.

“ Sir,”

“ Sir,” said the unhappy wretch,  
 “ the governor of the Havannah, not  
 “ doubting our making you prisoners,  
 “ had given orders for all of you to be  
 “ immediately hanged, and I was sent  
 “ to be your executioner.”

When the Olonois heard this, he  
 foamed with rage, and ordered the slave  
 to bring all the prisoners to him, one  
 after another. The barbarian, with  
 his eye sparkling with rage, raised his  
 formidable arm against the pale trem-  
 bling Spaniard, and cleft him in two,  
 whilst, more blood-thirsty than a canni-  
 bal, he licked the blood yet reeking hot  
 upon his hanger.

Guided by the slave, he went and took four barks appointed to give him chase, and pardoned only one man of them, whom he charged with a letter to the governor of the Havannah, in which he told him what he had done, and informed him at the same time, that he would treat all the Spaniards he could surprise in the same manner, and even himself too, if he fell into his hands.

The Olonois going aboard the frigate again, united himself with another adventurer, and then formed greater designs. He sailed to Maracaibo, in order to besiege it, though it was fortified, and very well defended from its situation;

tion; he took that city, seized all its riches, and returned to Tortuga to dissipate the fruits of his conquest, with his companions, who shortly afterwards entered upon new dangers.

I will not follow that intrepid warrior in all his expeditions; I shall only say, that after having given a thousand proofs of his valour and savageness of heart, he was one day surprised by some Indians, who dispersed his frightened troop, seized him, and carried him into a wood, where they roasted and eat him.

Several bands of free-booters continued to molest the Spaniards: encouraged

raged by their success, they were no longer afraid of the numbers of their enemies. Two hundred of them took a town defended by a thousand soldiers. The Spaniards made new efforts to stop the progress of the French; they came to the Cape to attack them, to the number of three thousand fighting men. The mis-understanding which prevailed at that time between the governor and the king's lieutenant was more favourable to them than the superiority of their numbers. They landed without opposition, and advanced into the meadow of Limonade, so called; where, notwithstanding the courage of Mr. de Cassi, who made an obstinate defence, and died covered with wounds, they gained

gained a battle, which restored them the ascendancy they had so long lost. They had also, in the end, greater advantages; but the king, in 1696, sent a fleet from France, commanded by Mr. de Pointis, who came to St. Domingo, to augment his forces. Mr. Ducasse, who was at that time governor, furnished him with twelve hundred men, and placed himself at their head, under his orders. The fleet departed from the Cape, and sailed straight for Carthagena to besiege it. After a brave defence, it capitulated. The commander extracted immense riches from it, and basely cheated the inhabitants of St. Domingo of their share, although they most contributed to the success of the

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the enterprize, and had been always exposed to danger.

The free-booters, finding themselves so egregiously deceived, returned from Carthagena, notwithstanding the governor endeavoured to retain them. They laid the inhabitants under contribution a second time, who gave all they had left, to preserve themselves from their fury; but on their return, they were interrupted by a fleet of the enemy, who sunk some of their vessels, and took from them all they had brought away.

The injustice of Mr. de Pointis to them, and the very great severity they

had been treated with, occasioned a considerable number of the free-booters to go to Jamaica, where the English had not better troops to oppose them. It is certain that the new colony owed to their valour the success and repose they enjoyed. Whilst they were harrassing the Spaniards, the inhabitants peaceably cleared the uncultivated lands, enriched themselves, and put them in a condition to oppose with equal forces those of their enemies.

At this time the Spaniards have no more to fear; dull indolence has succeeded that fury which animated them against the new inhabitants of St. Domingo; their towns present a scene of  
indigence



indigence and depopulation. St. Domingo is ornamented like an old palace, which bespeaks its ancient splendor: commerce, which inspires industry, and diffuses plenty, is lost, through the greatest indifference for riches; their numerous flocks furnish those languid people with all they covet; for their sobriety greatly diminishes their wants. The men, extended in their hammocks, are rocked to sleep by their slaves, hunger only can drag them from their beds, where they pass the greatest part of the day; they tread with disdain the ground which incloses in its bowels the gold that formerly they were so covetous of. Lost in the greatest ignorance, a stupid pride, which makes them look

upon the French with contempt, a superstitious religion, which their shameful passions dishonour, are the only sentiments that seem strongly to affect them. The connections the Spaniards have had with the Africans, and original inhabitants of the isle, have given to their descendants a tinge more or less black, which seems to have nearly destroyed every trace of their first origin.

## N O T E S.

### OF THE GOVERNOR.

The governor of St. Domingo is the supreme of the colony. His authority extends over all the other commanders,

ers, the officers employed under his government, and all traders. He ought to maintain good and sound discipline among the military, and preserve the duty and fidelity which the inhabitants owe to the king. It belongs to him to give to the officers and inhabitants the permission of leaving, or going out of the colony, after the usual publick notice has been given for the safety of their creditors.

The governor formerly presided over the island of Tortuga, as well as St. Domingo. At this time they have only the title of governor general of the island of St. Domingo. Their commis-

sion bears date for three years, but they are often continued in the office much longer by order of the king.

### OF THE INTENDANT.

The intendants were first established in the year 1707. The governor, before that time, used to do the duties now belonging to that office. Every thing that concerns government, the distribution of the taxes raised in the king's name, are regulated by the intendant of the colony. He alone can give orders for the support of the places where justice is given, hospitals and other buildings appointed for the public service. It is to him the inhabitants

tants carry their complaints, and he ought to make the governor do them justice.

### OF THE JURISDICTION OF ST. DOMINGO.

It is not sufficient to extend power, to discover a country, and conquer it; it is necessary to restrain the inhabitants, the cultivators, and make them love the yoke put on them. The more alienated those people are, the milder ought the power to be used which hangs over them. There is no chain that more strongly binds the subject to the monarch, and the citizen to the government, than justice; but it is necessary that that justice should be

placed upon a firm basis, that it should be open and accessible to all, that its weight should terrify the wicked; that neither intrigue, quirks or money, should be able to make the scale preponderate.

This truth was never more obvious than at present; it has delivered the colonies from an arbitrary power; the governor, instead of representing a haughty tyrant surrounded by his slaves, at this time presents the image of the prince who has deposited his power in his hands, who has placed in him the most sacred deposit, viz. the hearts of his subjects. Possessions are now no longer precarious; the husbandman, who re-  
poses

poses under the shadow of the laws, no longer flies from persecution; he is no more afraid of seeing his inheritance laid waste, his acquisitions snatched from him by power. The military government no longer exhibits to the honest inhabitant a scene of despotism.

There are two degrees of jurisdiction in the colony; the admiralty, and the two councils, where the appeals from the latter are judged by the former, as the last resource, as well in civil as criminal causes. \* One of these councils is at the Cape, the other at Port-au-Prince. They were formerly

\* The king, by an edict of March the eighteenth, created a third tribunal.

composed of a certain number of citizens, elected from the most rich, sensible and honest of them, who left their habitations voluntarily, to render justice gratis to the people; their sittings were formerly for a month. The king, willing to give a form more permanent to his councils, and a more ready road to justice, by his edict of January, 1766, has ordered, that the titular counsellors, the general proctors and their deputies, should reside at the Cape, and Port-au-Prince, and that their sittings should not be interrupted. His majesty appointed to each counsellor a salary of 12000 livres. By another edict of the same year, he assigned nobility to the  
the



the office of titular counsellors and general proctors after twenty years duty.

These employments cannot be entered upon before the age of twenty-seven. To be a counsellor, it is necessary to attend the bar of the parliament of Paris, or in the royal courts of justice, for the space of four years.

The sovereign council of Port-au-Prince, and the superior council of the Cape, hold audiences three days in a week. At the first audience, summary causes, and such as require dispatch, are pleaded in the same manner as in the parliament of Paris. In these two councils, the governor holds the first

place; he has only one voice, as well as the intendant, who can assemble them upon extraordinary occasions, after giving his reasons to the governor. In his absence, his sub-delegate general presides as first counsellor. \*

The legislative power is not so extensive in St. Domingo, as in France; beneficial and feudal matters are not known, nor intails and feoffments of trust; nor all those great affairs of succession and wills; their jurisprudence is not clogged with that difference of cus-

\* The oldest officer in rank has a right, when the governor is not present, to assist at the council of Port-au-Prince; and he occupies the first place, after the vacant one of the governor's.

tom,

tom, which makes ours so complex. The knowledge of the common law in matters of obligation, the custom of Paris, and its decrees, are sufficient for the counsellor who defends a cause, and the judge who pronounces sentence.

I do not propose to examine whether the legislature is well adapted to the manners of the inhabitants, to the nature of their fortune, to the unusualness of their cases, the immense gains of the murmuring creditors, and the unhappy events which ought sometimes to prolong the terms of engagements. A discussion of such a nature would lead me too far. Man arrives at perfection by slow degrees; it is not till  
after

after long and continued error, that he stumbles on the road which leads to peace and equity.

I shall not say more of the abuse which arises from interest or negligence of the registers and subaltern officers, than that it is necessary to restrain their greediness. There are two springs which affect all our actions; honour, and interest. The art of government is to increase the force of one, and diminish that of the other.

#### THE INSTITUTION OF THE MILITIA.

The inhabitants of St. Domingo, till lately, were never subject to any military service: the king quarters troops in

in the colony which ought to defend it; but S. M. has created a new militia within these two years, the companies of which consist of the inhabitants. The governor appoints the officers from amongst the richest and most distinguished. This institution laboured under some difficulties at first: but the seditious have been frightened, and have at length sunk under the weight of authority. The duty of the militia is but light, they are only obliged to present themselves in their uniforms and under arms at two reviews made every year by the governor.

This militia is nothing equal to that we see in France, formed by the unhap-

py inhabitants of the country; who reluctantly carry the arms which force has placed in their hands. It is a troop of men richly cloathed, whose appearance is very brilliant. It is divided into infantry and cavalry; the officers enjoy military honours, and are in hopes of the cross of St. Louis.

Besides those companies, there are others also formed of free negroes and mulattoes; they are commanded by white men, and are chiefly employed in discovering the run-away slaves and deserters.

The counsellors of the superior council, the practising advocates, the members of the society of agriculture, &c.

&c. are exempt from serving in the militia; but they are obliged to have two muskets, and a certain quantity of powder and ball. Notwithstanding these precautions, the island of St. Domingo is so extensive, and so indifferently defended by nature, that it would be very difficult to prevent a surprise, or make long resistance against a powerful enemy, who wanted to plunder the inhabitants of their riches.

#### OF THE NEGROES.

It is a very humiliating sight for man, to see that part of the human species placed in the rank of domestick animals; but, such is his misfortune, that having once violated the laws of nature,  
the

the evil becomes necessary to him: because he has once done wrong, he is always to do so; but his crime is not unpunished; he is unwilling to acknowledge his like in a slave, and he discovers in him the ferocious creature that seeks to fly from, or devour the hand which torments it. If by the effect of a wise polity, which is less attended to, because it depends more on manners than the laws, the planters would soften the fate of those unhappy wretches, and invite them to population by their gentleness, there would result immense wealth to the colony; the inhabitants would not give their merchandise in exchange for slaves, which commanders bring from that country which



which interest and war depopulate every day, and their slaves would be better and more robust, from being born upon that spot to which servitude had attached them.

Those unhappy creatures, upon their arrival at St. Domingo, are in general attacked by that frightful disease, which is become more fatal to the Europeans, than the treasures of the new world has been advantageous to them. The libidinous disposition of the negroes perpetuate it, and has made it so common, that they have no other way of preventing their children having it, than by their being nourished by goats milk.

They

They are so fully persuaded at St. Domingo of the necessity of servitude, and those base maxims of punishment are so cruelly adopted, that it would be futile to examine whether it is not possible to employ free hands for the cultivation of the land; and whether it is true, that a base treatment is the only method of enticing to labour the sluggish slave; it is certain that the European would with difficulty suffer that scorching heat which the negroes bear. But because the more robust African is necessary to a delicate and proud people, is it necessary to condemn him to perpetual slavery? how much worse is his condition, than that of the beast who labours in our fields? This thought alone

alone is enough to strike the soul with horror. What a wretch must that master be, who can hear the cries of a slave with unconcern, who with dry eyes can see his blood spilt, and not stop the hand that sheds it?

#### OF DISEASES AND THEIR CAUSES.

Almost all the white people who go to St. Domingo, not only those who come from Europe, but also those who go from the islands and continent of America, are attacked, soon after their arrival, with a malignant fever, the symptoms of which are convulsive spasms, delirium, and sometimes lethargy. The danger sometimes continues so long as to the twenty fifth day.

To

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To obviate this disease, it is said to be necessary to bleed before embarking for the island, and to live regularly during the voyage. The light air, which universally prevails at sea, occasions a great appetite: if it is too much indulged, it increases the quantity of juices, and retards the circulation of the blood. The warm latitudes increasing perspiration, there remain only in the vessels the grosser fluids which occasion too much resistance to the moving fibres and propelling power of the heart: by which that equilibrium which is the principle of life is destroyed; hence diseases and death.

Upon

Upon his arrival, the new-comer ought to observe the strictest regimen, and not suffer himself to be drawn too easily into those pleasures which the lascivious African entices him to.

Another cause of several diseases to which the inhabitants of St. Domingo are exposed, is the variation of the air; the evenings, nights, and mornings, are very cold, compared to other hours of the day when the heat is excessively great. Nevertheless the men continue the same cloaths, which are very light; they take no care to prevent the ill effects of the chilly dampness of the evening; hence arise those diseases which are common to the autumn in Europe.

## OF PLANTS.

Beneficent nature covers the earth with her gifts ; mother of all that breathe, she offers to her children her riches and bosom ; she causes the tops of trees for the winged inhabitants of the air to perch on the branches, and seek for shelter against the winds ; she meliorates and causes to fall the fruit which, whilst suspended, her children perhaps cannot reach ; she rolls her limpid streams through the wavy fields, where the weary hunter may allay his thirst ; she causes herbs to grow for the nourishment of cattle, and enamels the gay meadows with flowers, from whence the industrious bee extracts his sweets ;  
from

from whence likewise may be culled the salutary self-healing plants, so excellent in the cure of wounds. The lands of America, more cherished than those of Europe by the burning star that affords us day, are always in vegetation. A light shower makes a thousand different plants spring up in a day, which the negroes as soon destroy. Chance has discovered the excellence of some, which are carefully preserved. The tree that bears the cassia, the senna used by the physicians, and the calibash whose fruit is very salutary; jalap, ipecacuanha, pine apples, citrons, and an infinite number of other plants, both useful and agreeable, afford the inhabitants of St. Domingo articles of commerce,

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merce, which very much enrich those who cultivate them. Father Labat and Mr. Chevalier have described them more fully and treated on their utility.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EARTHQUAKE.

These transient thoughts on the government and actual situation of St. Domingo, were reduced to writing, when the most frightful accident diffused distress and terror, and made the inhabitants afraid of being crushed in pieces, and buried under ruins.

The third of June, 1770, the day of Pentecost, about a quarter after seven in the evening, there was felt an earthquake throughout the whole island  
of



of St. Domingo, preceded by a dull rumbling noise like the lowing of a cow, and a considerable commotion in a line from east to west. A thick horizon, a burning atmosphere, and heavy air during the day, foretold that event. Fortunately, almost all the inhabitants of the city of Port-au-Prince, had walked out of their houses or into their galleries : hence they had time to throw themselves at the first shock into the middle of the streets, which are very spacious and shaded with trees as we before observed, when speaking of that city. The two first shocks, which followed each other almost instantaneously together, continued not much less than four minutes. During that space the

wind was in all points of the compass; it might be said, that at that time the earth boiled, and that it was become fluid, for its motion imitated the waves of the sea. The moment which succeeded this melancholy catastrophe was horrible indeed: the dust with which the air was filled, which almost prevented breathing; the groans, the lamentable cries, the heart-rending groans of the wounded and dying; the fear of being either drowned or swallowed up; every thing in short inspired horror. The pale glimmering of the moon, by exhibiting the rubbish and ruins, still more increased the general consternation in that dreadful moment; death every where presented itself under the most ghastly

ghastly appearances. As soon as the people were recovered from the first impression of fear, each demanded and anxiously sought for his friends and relations : the mother who was happy enough to see her son again, felt in the midst of the publick calamity, joy mixed with grief.

After those terrible shocks, there succeeded several more, which though lighter than the former, were sufficient to destroy whole cities : during the rest of the night the earth was always in motion and floating as it were ; the different shocks which agitated it, succeeded at very short intervals, and at almost always different spaces of time. The

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day

day at length appeared to enlighten the accident, and present to us the most dreadful sight. The earth was opened in a thousand places; the foldiers, worthy of a more honourable death, lay buried under the ruins of the barracks and hospitals; the mountains that commanded the town were wasted and considerably sunk; the publick buildings, such as the governor's house, the intendant's, the assembly house, and the most substantial solid buildings, such as the new church, the new guard-house, the powder magazine and some single houses, were nothing but a heap of dust; such was the first appearance of the calamity experienced at Port-au-Prince. Although the number killed at

at Port-au-Prince by this accident did not exceed two hundred, yet there is no doubt but that earthquake was more severe than that felt at Lisbon. If we consider the breadth of the streets, which placed the inhabitants in safety; if we attend to the day and hour as well as expectation of such an accident, which occasioned most to be out of doors, it will readily appear that to those happy circumstances we owe the preservation of our lives.

What still more proves that the shocks at Port-au-Prince were more violent than those at Lisbon, is, that according to the most authentic account of the misfortune at the latter place,

two thirds of that city resisted the violence of the shock, and most certainly that capital could not have resisted those shocks which destroyed and threw into ruins in an instant the most solid and strongest buildings at Port-au-Prince.

It is nevertheless certain that the action of that concealed force in the bowels of the earth, does not discover itself every where with the same strength, and that the larger a city is, the more buildings ought to escape the commotion, which becomes weaker by extending itself.

The shocks which were afterwards felt, were innumerable for fifteen days,  
and

and they were even perceived for a month after the first.

The plain, and what is called the *Cul-de-sac*, have not been more spared than the city; all the houses and sugar manufactories were thrown down; the earth opened and swallowed up a great number of plantations; many houses established in the coffee branch were destroyed; the river of the *Cul-de-Sac* was dry for sixteen hours, at the end of which time it returned with great impetuosity; the black mountain, another which is supposed to contain fire within its bowels, in a place commonly called the Whirlpool, where at all times are to be heard lowings like those which have



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preceded all the shocks, and the mountain of Guimbi shattered with the commotion have destroyed all the old roads.

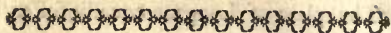
The city of Leogane experienced the same disasters; the church, which was pretty and large, the meeting-house, the garrison, the powder magazine, the military hospital, which had withstood the earthquake in 1751, and the terrible hurricane that succeeded it, were unable to resist that astonishing trepidation, and fell to the ground; the rest of the city was likewise in ruins, and fifty persons killed.

The



The plain of Leogane equally suffered; the works, whether of sugar or coffee, were either totally destroyed, or very much damaged; the rivers left their old, and formed new beds: the same causes produced the same effects every where: it left only one house standing amidst the ruins of little Goava.

The northern part of the island felt less of it than the south, but it has not discouraged the inhabitants, who are to this day employed in rebuilding their houses: the hopes of gain, that powerful chain, has fixed them to that perilous earth, and made them forget all the dangers they have escaped.



## A P P E N D I X.

**I** Would have concluded the Memoirs of an American by a description of the manners of that people, sacrificed to the fanaticism and cruel ambition of the Spaniards. I proposed to myself to have discovered the falsehood of those celebrated historians who have lost the truth in the surmises of a flighty imagination; who by a stroke of the pen have raised superb temples in countries where the first rules of architecture were unknown; who have fertilized fields where depopulation and savage customs have left the cultivation of the earth to nature,

nature; who have described a wise system of government, where horrid despotism ruled without controul; who have built immense and well fortified cities, where none but straggling and indefensible villages were ever seen.

A philosophical writer has prevented me.

I could have proved how much the haughty Spaniard had imposed on our credulity; I could perhaps have demonstrated that that people plunged in ignorance, who had no idea of navigation, who never suspected there were men separated from them by immense seas,

seas, were not so numerous as they would compel us to believe.

I might have proved, that America, when the Spaniards first entered it, was inhabited only by small troops of savages, who lived straggling, under the laws of a distant prince, because agriculture, and the fine arts, which only could form them into societies and civilize them, were unknown. If otherwise, would the Spaniards, after such victories, have experienced the horrors of famine in a cultivated country? would they have found the lands everywhere over-grown with brambles which occasioned them no small trouble? Would they have been forced to kill  
their

their horses which made them so formidable, to feed on their flesh, if great depopulation had not caused those countries to be extensive deserts? Would they have passed through immense forests, without being wounded by the arrows of their enemies, who would have placed themselves securely under cover with their dreadful arms? In short, if the Mexicans and Peruvians had acquired that knowledge of the arts, that the Spaniards honour them with, there would have been seen in their temples the vessels used at their religious ceremonies ornamented with engravings; there would have been pictures seen, and their mythology would have been described. The sun,  
which

which they adore, would have received homage from such talents ; there would have been seen that bright star animating all nature, raising from the bosom of the earth the flowers which enamel it ; its image would have been repeated a thousand times upon the porticos of the temples : their altars would have been loaded with its attributes.

The chiefs of their enemies, so zealous to carry over to the court of Spain the grains of gold, the pearls and all the precious trifles that the Americans gave them, would not have failed carrying in triumph the magnificent spoils of the temples so much boasted of. Madrid, enriched by the master-pieces of opulence

opulence and taste, would at this day have been the richest city in the universe.

If fanaticism had placed burning torches in the hands of the Spaniards, and had conducted them to the gates of the temples, where idolatry did homage to the sun; if they had put their torches to every thing that those worshippers of fire employed in the adoration they paid to that planet which enlightens them, they would at least have spared the cities and palaces of the Incas. But they were willing to destroy every thing that could discover the ignorance and weakness of those people, whom they had so cruelly annihilated.

They

They have mentioned wonders in their history of the conquest of Mexico, for the same reason, it may be said, that engaged Alexander to bring shields and bucklers of an astonishing richness.

Perhaps also the Spaniards, by increasing the number of their enemies, have been willing to apologize to posterity for their unparalleled barbarity on that account, and prove to them, that it would have been impossible to have conquered so numerous a people, to have deprived them of their riches, if they had not used dispatch during their surprise to annihilate them.

A faith-



A faithful history, an exact description of a world so long unknown, and whose existence was scarce suspected, would be a very useful and interesting picture. What new objects would have presented themselves in those vast countries, where the inhabitants had manners so opposite, a form of genius so different ! What valuable discoveries might not have been made by a nice observer, well-grounded in the knowledge of physick, natural history, and physiology, if after having visited with candour and justice the melancholy remains of that degenerated species who inhabit the new world in the centre of the torrid zone, he had afterward carried his observations to those little, wandering,

dering,

dering, and dispersed tribes in the northern parts of America !

How many systems, adopted through ignorance and prejudice, had never been hazarded, if man had carried his observations further, if he had not pinned his faith on another's sleeve ! But it is so easy to broach opinions, and so pleasing to make them received, that there is often more time lost in defending them, than is necessary for the discovery of truth. A philosopher cannot but observe and compare how much men will say and dispute, and irritate each other, who have never studied in their lives, nor subjected their ideas to experience.

Memoirs written by avaricious merchants or zealous missionaries, who undoubtedly, could be but indifferently informed, have been for a long time the sources from whence Europe has formed such false ideas of the origin and genius of the Americans. They have been willing to reject the truth for falsehood, and the whole is become one continued error. The hands of avarice have raked from the earth, have extracted from its bowels the gold which it concealed; but the piercing eye of the philosopher has not penetrated into the heart of the melancholy and suspicious cannibal, of the Eskimaux who feed on frozen fish, nor of the Patagonian

nian who wanders so wretchedly in solitude.

Man has braved infirmities and death by sinking into deep mines, by plunging himself into the sea to seek for pearls; yet is afraid to penetrate into the midst of the frigid zone to observe naked and uncouth nature, which would increase his knowledge, and teach him how to know the human species under every appearance.

The desire of diving into the origin of the Americans, and discovering the time when the new world began to be inhabited, is to sink into eternal darkness in search of light. If the soil,  
obscured

obscured by immense forests, filled with wild and poisonous plants, growing in stagnant water; if a country where are none to be seen but weak men emaciated with disease, the primary cause of which exists in the air they breathe, and the reptiles they feed on; in short, if a dull and unfociable disposition, which in general prevails in monsters, whilst the more noble and grand productions are degenerated, pronounce an origin not very distant, there is reason to say it was in its infancy, and that the new world was in a weak state when the European entered it.

But how many unknown causes might have contributed to diffuse over the surface

face

face of America that melancholy alteration? By how many unhappy events might the human race have again sunk into that ignorance and degeneracy which characterized those indolent and pusillanimous beings who were drowned in seas of blood? In vain do we perplex ourselves in conjectures on the causes of this phœnomenon; we shall never perhaps discover the truth.

This is certain, that at the time America was first discovered, that climate was unhealthy to the human species. Thirst after gold made the Spaniards surmount all dangers, and if I may be allowed such an expression, placed them out of the power of disease.

ease. In the southward parts and most of the islands of America, a marshy land, where the waters stagnated and became putrid, produced an infinite number of poisonous trees and plants: from which the savages expressed a juice to dip their arrows in, which by only wounding the skin gave speedy death.

By an unexampled fatality attached to that wretched species of men, the Americans established on the eastern side fed upon a poisonous plant, which necessity had inspired them with the means of making salutary. \*

\* See the first volume of the Philosophical Researches. The root here alluded to is the cassada.

Ought we then to be astonished at those unhappy creatures, when fore-pressed by hunger, devouring their enemies? ought we to seek further in such distressing necessity, the cause of those horrid repasts, where man serves as food for man? Yes, it was only in the greatness of hunger and famine, that the Anthropophagi, after having searched the woods through in vain, flew upon any other hunter that chance presented, and fixed his murdering tooth upon his limbs. When man has once violated the first law of nature, he places no bounds to his savage disposition, and becomes more cruel than any other animal.



The people who cultivate peace, have gentler and more sociable inclinations : these latter formed the empires of Mexico and Peru ; but these unhappy wretches had still another enemy to engage with as terrible as famine ; it was a disease so dangerous and contagious, that it might be received by inspiration only, and had already carried off a greater part of the inhabitants of the new world. It is true that, by an instinct common to all animals, they at length found the means of palliating the destructive effects of that disease, less fatal in the country where it originated, than in Europe, where it has spread horrid desolation.

Such was the terrible situation of the Americans, when, to fill up the measure of their evils, they saw a body of Spaniards land on their coasts. One of their leaders, named *Nunnez*, preceded by a pack of dogs, began by causing one of their chiefs to be devoured by those animals, yet more terrible than their masters. If we attend to the weakness, divisions, and stupidity of those degenerate men, we cannot be surprised at the rapidity with which the Spaniards made themselves masters of their empires.

The famous battle of Caxamalca, which yielded all Peru to Spain, did not cost the lives of ten soldiers. The pioneers,

pioneers, who were the chief of the Spanish army, had under their command a hundred and sixty foot, and thirty horse; they cut to pieces and put to flight the numerous troops of Lincas Atalabila, who was himself taken prisoner, amidst his lazy foldiers, by a French pioneer.

It cost Cortez no more difficulty to conquer Mexico. The only enemies that frightened the Spaniards were the Caribbees, who, armed with poisonous darts, gave certain death, and would have destroyed that troop of barbarous usurpers, if they had made longer resistance.

What greatly contributed to make the Spaniards masters of America, and put the finishing stroke to the inhabitants destruction, was the base perfidy of the women, who prostituted themselves to the murderers of their husbands, who guided their steps, and discovered to them the retreats where the timid combatants had concealed themselves.

Of all the people of America, those who inhabited the northern parts of it, or fled there, were the only ones free from persecution, and the torments of slavery. The Eskimaux, those miserable beings, the least and most deformed of their species, from being born  
in

in a country where the cold is so excessive, that trees do not vegetate, where the ground is for nine months in the year covered with snow and frost, continue their liberty and life.

It is in casting ones eyes over those cold and frigid regions, that a new order of things present themselves to the observation of the traveller; he would imagine himself at the boundary, where nature, weak and exhausted, had just given existence to some rare and miserable beings, whom she could not nourish; yet when he considers that under those vast bodies of ice which cover the surface of the ocean, there swims the Leviathan, the prodigious whale, which

grows to an enormous size, and constantly swallows with its breath a thousand animals, nature appears more powerful, more fruitful to him, than in those regions he has travelled through, and his ideas are plunged into an abyss of uncertainties.

We shall not in this appendix stop to describe the characteristick form of the Southern Americans, who are very well known, as many travellers have before treated on them. Every body knows that they have long hair, and are of a copper colour, which appears surprising, when we observe under the same parallels of the torrid zone, black men with woolly heads. This difference  
must

must be attributed to the height of the land, which cools the atmosphere, which is very probable, since upon the high mountains, even under the line, there is a very sharp air. The great extent of the forests which shade the earth, and continue for a long time the humidity of the showers, contribute likewise to freshen the air. If this is the cause of the different shade we observe between the Peruvians and true negroes exposed under the same parallels, we ought not to be surprised that the people of America, more distant from the line, are as fair as the Italians and Spaniards. It would be more difficult perhaps to account for their want of beard. It has been ob-

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served

served that all the Indigenes have hair upon no part of the body, the cause has been sought for in their aliments: but there is some reason to think that it is a consequence of the weakness of their constitution.

We shall hazard some reflections on the manners of the Eskimaux, and their existence. We are not afraid of adopting the ideas of the author of *Philosophical Researches*, as the system appears to us, supported upon excellent foundation. It may perhaps be objected to him, not placing sufficient bounds to his ideas, for having suffered some contradictions to escape him in his work. For instance, it is difficult  
to



to believe him when he says, that a million of natives, at St. Domingo, were extirminated by the swords of the Spaniards, and to imagine that there are deserts on the continent of America, where population must have been greater than in the Antilles. It is scarcely to be imagined, that men who knew the means of giving to copper the temper of steel, and forming axes and other instruments for the raising of edifices, and cutting of stones, should have no knowledge of the arts. I doubt him equally, when he persuades us that an European will in America, in the third generation, become as stupid as the original inhabitants were; since we every day observe the descendants of those

who first settled in Martinico, and St. Domingo, shew great knowledge in their affairs. If the sciences do not flourish in America, it is because interest suppresses them in embryo, and directs the active dispositions of its inhabitants to other objects.

Notwithstanding these defects, the work we mention is at least the best, and most philosophical of all that have been written on America. The provost has consulted elegance, more than truth, in his travels; he has written his memoirs in a beautiful style; such deceitful guides lead us into error; but he has every where interspersed such beauties,

beauties, that it is pleasing to follow him even in his errors.

Dom Perneti has furnished science with some useful observations; he has extended the knowledge of natural history; but his memoirs would have been more interesting if he had had fewer of those trifling histories, and had diffused more philosophy throughout his work.

The study of the human species is what seems the least of any to attract the attention of travellers; there are but few, who, like Mr. de la Condamine, carry among the inhabitants of distant countries, the searching eye of observation: nothing however can be more worthy their attention, than the manners,

ners, inclinations, faculties and ideas of a people when first presented to their observation, and form so singular a contrast with them. We have been favoured with long descriptions of the dress and manner of life of the Eskimaux, but we are still unacquainted with their genius and disposition. We know that those little men never exceed four feet in stature: it has been repeated a hundred times to us, that they have a large deformed head, a flat face, a round mouth, a small nose (but not flat) full, yellowish eyes, unequal lips, a swarthy complexion, which latter ought to be attributed to the excessive cold they are subject to, the contrary extremes often producing the same effects.

fects. We know that their short small feet, their thick clumsy hands, indicate their being stunted in their growth by the cold, and never increasing to their full size. It has been assured to us, that those men, who appear so hideous to us, are themselves happy in their persons, and attached to women still more ill-favoured and deformed than themselves are; so true is it that beauty is only relative in our ideas.

We know that those pigmies, who are such poltrons, so timid before other men, encounter, notwithstanding all the dangers of the sea, go courageously and wage war against the sea dogs and whales, whose oil strengthens, and fortifies

tifies their stomach; that their canoes are so light and well made, that they will always swim; notwithstanding the waves may overset them they cannot sink them. But it would be still more interesting to know the ideas of those people upon the origin of man, principle of life, and on death. If we are to believe the author of the Philosophical Researches, the Eskimaux have not any ideas of a divinity, of the immortality of the soul; their idiom is even destitute of words to express it. Their industrious life, the barrenness of their country, which obliges them to continual action, undoubtedly contributes to that *inertia* of the mind, which has prolonged their ignorance. Perhaps they  
are

are more happy, in not being tormented with those dull, melancholy thoughts, which incessantly haunt those who deliver themselves up to fears and dreams of futurity. The attachment they have for their country, evidently demonstrates, that man may find happiness in the want of superfluities, and in a country covered with snow and ice. The greatest liberty, and happy equality, amply compensate for that magnificence, for that profusion, which generally accompany servitude and slavery. They are never humbled by the presence of a great man, nor the haughtiness of a despot. Huts hastily executed and built upon the sea coast, are their palaces. Necessity, an indissoluble



ble knot, unites them. The division of their spoils, assembles them together. The Eskimaux, compelled to derive their nourishment from the sea, would soon experience famine, unless their numbers were equally divided, one part seeking for provision, while the other rested, and thus alternately. There is good reason to believe that their poverty, and the hideous appearance of their dreary wastes, will ever preserve them from the yoke of slavery. By what strange fatality do independance and happy security, unite themselves in that terrible climate!

If we may confide in some travellers, they have discovered a species of men,  
very



very different from that of the Eski-maux. Giants of a prodigious size, of invincible strength and courage, spread over immense wastes, and defended from the approach of strangers: with their robust and nervous arms, they raise up an European as a weak timid dwarf: the caresses of the women, hurt the strangers who engage with them; in short, it is almost as dangerous to be beloved by them as to displease them. The discovery of these astonishing people have been reserved for some modern observers; through their perspectives they pretended to discover superb temples, ruins, and immense gardens, but on their nearer approach, they

they saw no more than rude sketches on a wall.

What is called the desert coast of Patagonia, is almost destitute of inhabitants. It is a dry sandy desert, with some few groves of trees, but it does not produce any alimentary plants. According to all appearance the Patagonians have withdrawn themselves into the more internal parts of the Straights of Magellan, where the soil is less barren, and there is greater plenty of game. The author of the Philosophical Researches, has upon good grounds rejected the fables of commodore Byron, concerning the Patagonians, whom he had seen at Terra del Fuego.

He

He tells us in the history of his voyages, which appeared in 1765, that on his touching at that land, his crew had been frightened by a troop of giants, nine feet high, mounted upon small lean horses. After having encouraged his companions, he courageously addressed them, and shewed such intrepidity, that those high men, to whose waist the tallest of his people could scarce reach, were complaisant enough to dismount, and seat themselves on a bank, that they might not be higher than his crew. If they took him and his men, as he says they did, for messengers of heaven, they certainly entertained no very great idea of celestial beings. The women, he continues, were so liberal of, and warm in

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in their careffes to him and his lieutenant, that it was with difficulty they could difengage themselves from their embraces. There is good reason to believe that commodore Byron, has diverted himself with the credulity of his countrymen, who are extremely fond of the marvellous. He has copied the recitals of some Spaniards accustomed to meet in the new world, with small, weak, dastardly men only, and afterwards had been repulſed by favages as tall as themſelves; who were courageous, becauſe they were hunters; whoſe organization had not been nipped by too cold an air; and whoſe ſtrength had not been exhausted by an exceſſive heat, like the people of the ſouth.

The

The editor of the voyages of Dom Perneti, to the Malouin Isles, deceives himself, when he says, that the relation of a man who tells us he has seen, proves more than the opinion of a hundred who have not. How many people have seen ghosts, witches, monsters and many other extravagancies, who nevertheless are undeserving belief? When he compares the proofs of the existence of those men, so prodigiously great, with those we may draw from nature, he will be convinced that his delight is in fables rather than truth. In fact, we ought to give more credit to Mr. Duclos, as well as to a letter from Mr. de Bougainville, who wrote to Dom Perneti in 1765: *We have made an alliance with*  
*those*

*those Patagonians so much talked of, whom we have not found taller, nor yet so bad as other men.* Mr. Duclos himself does not give us any fixed idea as to the size of the Patagonians. He says that he measured some who were five feet seven inches, and that there were others much taller; but even supposing there were some who were five inches higher, they would not be of gigantick size. Mr. de la Giraudais, cited by the same author, says, that among the different acts of politeness the Patagonians shewed to his people, and what appeared most incommodious to him, was their laying themselves pell-mell, three or four upon each of his men, to preserve them from the cold. Is the European strong enough

enough to avoid being crushed to pieces by so great a weight as that of four giants of monstrous size extended upon him?

Until those philosophical voyagers, after going over all the countries near the streights of Magellan, shall convince us that men nine or ten feet high exist there, and of courage equal to their stature, we shall consider the Patagonians as the tallest and bravest of all the savages that wander in any of the known countries of America; but we cannot believe that nature has given them that height and enormous size that some travellers have been willing to terrify our imagination with.

What we have the best authenticated about the Patagonians is, that they are beardless like other Americans; that they have a large face, thick forehead, flat nose, large mouth, white and very sharp teeth, a swarthy complexion, black hair, broad chest, and large and nervous limbs. They often paint their face and body with blood. They are extremely fond of red, and received with great pleasure the pots of vermilion which were presented them. The complexion of the women is less swarthy than the mens, but they are nearly of the same stature. Travellers very much disagree as to their manner of cloathing. Some assert that they cover only their shoulders, and that when they use



use any exercise they go quite naked. According to Mr. Duclos, they have cloaks made of the skins of sea-wolves, which they throw over their shoulders; they cover their privities with the skin of a bird, and go with their head naked.

Mr. de la Giraudais on the other hand, gives us a long detail of their dress; he informs us, that they are cloathed with the skins of different animals, stitched together like a cloak, which hangs very low; that their legs are covered with boots of the same kind, the hair and wool of which they wear within side; their cloaks are painted with blue and red figures, which

somewhat resemble Chinese characters, but that they are all alike. He says likewise, that they wear on their head a cap ornamented with feathers, like those of the Spaniards. Mr. Duclos and Mr. de la Giraudais, who made their observations of the Patagonians at the same time, do not agree, as we have observed, in the description they have given us of their dress. The one tells us they go almost naked, the other, covered from head to foot. If they contradict each other so flatly upon so evident a fact, who can believe them when they speak of the manners and dispositions of those savages? According to Mr. Duclos they are cruel, uncouth, and thieves. They briskly at-  
tacked

tacked his people at the moments they least expected it, and are always prepared with cords to bind their prisoners with. The French were obliged to take to their arms and kill all they met with, in order too keep those furious enemies at a distance.

Mr. de la Giraudais on the contrary, pretends that they are gentle, humane, and officious. One of them boldly jumped into the sea and swam after a boat that was adrift; the loss of which very much alarmed his crew. They used every effort to detain them amongst them, and offered them a part of their game.

However frightful the life these people lead may be, who go a hunting over a barren country, who have often to struggle with hunger and thirst, and are constantly exposed to the intemperance of the weather, they ought to wish that we may never approach their dreary wastes. There has not yet been a voyage made to the streights of Magellan, that has not cost the lives of many savages, or deprived more of their liberty.

In the full of the moon the Patagians make great howlings and yellings, which would lead one to suspect their worshipping that nocturnal planet: but  
the

the Hottentots, who do not acknowledge a divinity, do the same thing.

If this picture of the inhabitants of the new world is a faithful one, in what light must posterity view those barbarous conquerors, who without remorse extirpate a people who would willingly owe their happiness to them? Can they ever forgive them for so cruelly abusing the ignorance and weakness of the Americans, whose benefactors they ought to be? If, like their gods who taught men how to till the earth, to plant the vines and destroy the creatures that would devour them, they had pointed out the way to the wretched inhabitants of America, the art of improving

improving a marshy soil, and purifying a corrupted air which enervated them; if they had inspired them with horror for their abominable repasts, their horrid sacrifices, gratitude would have raised them altars, and the discovery of America, so fatal to humanity, would have diffused happiness and riches over both worlds.

The savage, on sight of a piece of gold, will he not say, it is the god of the christians? For this they will quit their country, for this they come to persecute us, to drive us from our habitations: will he not say with grief on the sight of an European, If you take from us the small portion of land  
we

we have left, what will become of the poor Caribbee? Must he inhabit the sea with the fish?

T H E E N D.

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